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Inter-Arab Affairs

Fahd, Husayn Discuss Coordination on Arab Issues

LD1306142390 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1330 GMT 13 Jun 90

[Text] Jeddah, 13 June 90, SPA—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, received a telephone call today from his brother, His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal, king of the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan.

The call falls in the context of the contacts being made by the brother leaders of the Arab states with the custodian of the two mosques on the situation in the Arab region, joint coordination to serve the causes and aspirations of the Arab motherland, unify its word, and work towards its solidarity.

ICO Protests Israeli Desecration of Jerusalem

LD1406085590 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2045 GMT 13 Jun 90

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 13 June 1990, SPA—The general secretariat of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] has expressed extreme anxiety about the growing aggression against the holy places in noble Jerusalem at the hands of the Zionist occupation forces and Jewish settlers, which is happening within the context of a criminal scheme aimed at the destruction of the blessed Al-Aqsa mosque and the noble Al-Sakhrah mosque and the building of a so-called temple on their ruins.

In a statement issued today by its secretary general, Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid, the organization urged the international community and peace-loving forces in the world to shoulder their legal responsibilities and take appropriate measures to prevent the implementation of those schemes and to restrain the Zionist occupation forces from continuing their attacks on the holy places in noble Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

The organization explained in its statement that: the Zionist criminal scheme which is aimed at destroying the blessed Al-Aqsa mosque and the noble Al-Sakhrah mosque and the building of a so-called temple on their ruins comes to light through an information booklet issued by El Al, which has on its cover a picture of noble Jerusalem from which the historic mosques have disappeared and have been replaced by a model of the so-called temple, and also from reports published by the Zionist HA'ARETZ and MA'ARIV on 1 June, which considered the published picture as a "national jewel". The oganization described the picture as a flagrant challenge to the feelings of Muslims as a whole and scorn for their holy place and religious values, in addition to confirming the intentions of the Israeli government and its schemes aimed at the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem through the continuation of the diggings, the demolition operations, and the expropriation of land by the Israeli authorities, thus doubling the intensity of the danger that surrounds Jerusalem and threatens its existence. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Says U.S. Dialogue Continues 'Officially'

Hurani Comments

PM1106110890 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Jun 90 p 2

[Zaki Shihab report: "Palestinian Official Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: United States Has Not Officially Informed Us of Breaking Off Dialogue"]

[Excerpt] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A senior PLO official has announced that the PLO has not received any message from the United States or been officially informed of the breaking off of the dialogue which started between the two sides in December 1988.

'Abdallah Hurani, PLO Executive Committee member and member of the Palestinian delegation to the dialogue with the United States, told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the dialogue has been all but broken off for nearly a year, as the last official round of dialogue was held in Tunis in May 1989, but since then there have been no official rounds of talks.

He added that the final statement of the Executive Committee meeting, which ended at midday yesterday, described the threat to break off the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue as tantamount to dealing a blow to peace efforts. Mr. Hurani said that "the U.S. position toward the PLO is an attempt to justify its lack of earnestness in putting pressure on Israel to boost the peace process. And it puts the blame on the PLO because it lacks the courage to put the blame on Israel." He cited the recent U.S. position at the Security Council, describing it as a cover for the failure of its efforts because of Israel's intransigence.

The Executive Committee's statement emphasized that the positions of some U.S. circles and the pressures exerted by these circles in collusion with Israel are designed to cover up the crimes and massacres committed by the Tel Aviv authorities against the Palestinian people.

Informed diplomatic sources in some capitals expected the U.S. Administration to announce next week the breaking off of the dialogue with the PLO. Some of these sources said that the pressures exerted by some Congress members on the administration are increasing, and that the decision awaits the conclusion of Secretary of State James Baker's European tour. [passage omitted]

Prepared for Dialogue's End

LD1406185990 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] A responsible PLO source has affirmed that the PLO will have no regrets if the existing dialogue between it and the United States is ended. He added: We are not prepared to make fresh concessions for the sake of continuing the dialogue with the United States, and in the event of the dialogue being severed at an initiative from Washington, then we would not regret it.

He affirmed that the PLO position concerning dialogue with Washington would remain as it is. The source further said: The brother president, Yasir 'Arafat, has been subjected to strong pressure for two weeks by a number of states, including the Soviet Union, Britain, and Egypt, for the PLO to change its position and openly denounce the Palestinian attempt at a landing on the shores of Tel Aviv. However, brother president 'Arafat has not and will not change his opinion vis-a-vis this subject.

The day before yesterday, Washington used stronger language toward the PLO, with U.S. President Bush announcing at an impromptu press conference in the White House: I want this attack and those who undertook it to be condemned. But he repeated that Washington had not yet made any decision concerning the possibility of severing dialogue with the PLO.

Intifadah Call Demands Boycott of U.S. Contacts

JN1406174390 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Jun 90

["Text" of Intifadah Call No. 58 issued by the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah; date not given]

[Text] Heroes of the glorious intifadah, who have given their souls and blood to defend their people and their freedom, and thus have beaten back the intrigue of aggressors:

There you are reiterating that your will is superior to the army of invaders, that your sacrifices are inexhaustible, that your struggle is relentless, that occupation shall succumb, that you will be the victors, being stronger than the massacres of occupation and the tools of repression, however much they have been developed by the neo-Nazis.

A thousand cheers to our valiant worker masses who are carrying on with battles on the firing line of the intifadah and inflicting the heaviest losses on the enemy's economy through their adherence to the strike designated by the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah [UNLI]. A thousand cheers to all sectors of our masses, as they lend the intifadah its genuine popular character and broaden popular participation in militant tasks.

We salute our masses wherever they reside—our people whose unity has deepened and been incarnated in a spirit of solidarity and activities supportive of the intifadah by their standing up to the perpetrators of massacres. This has dramatized the unity of our people wherever they reside—the unity of their cause, destiny, and their legitimate national rights to repatriation, self-determination, and national statehood on our national soil under the PLO's leadership.

Our heroic people: By escalating your intifadah in the face of massacres, and by consolidating your steadfastness and bringing victory closer, you are thus increasingly isolating the fascist occupation authorities in the international arena and are deepening the crisis of the Zionist entity. Shamir has formed a terrorist government meeting the demands of the extremist, racist movements, the advocates of transfer, and the enemies of just and comprehensive peace. It will seek to settle the new Jewish immigrants in our independent land. Toward that end, systematic state terror will be one of the tools this government will use to impose its political program. Under these circumstances, our masses are urged to intensify the struggle and burn the ground under the feet of the occupation army and its settlers by escalating the intifadah as a militant option, and by firmly adhering to the Palestinian peace program and the Palestinian peace initiative as a political option. This will enable us to impose retreat on the enemy government and its ally, the United States, which perseveres in aggressive policies toward our people and obstructs any attempt to find a balanced solution which meets our people's right to independence and freedom.

American duplicity and denial of our people's rights, and their providing cover for the crimes of occupation, are exemplified by Washington's use of the veto to obstruct a UN Security Council resolution which would have offered an opportunity to expose the crimes of occupation against our masses, and its attempt to blackmail the PLO by threatening to break off the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue. Washington's position requires a firm stand against the United States by threatening its interests in the Arab countries and forcing it to go back on its hostile attitude toward our people's rights and concede this people's right to freedom and dignity just like the other world peoples. Specifically, this calls for accommodating the demands presented by the UNLI to the Arab summit, and a translation of its decisions denouncing U.S. policies; it requires adopting practical, economic, and political measures against the United States.

The UNLI emphasizes the Baghdad summit resolutions stressing the need to confront the dangers threatening pan-Arab security, which is most threatened by Jewish immigration to the territory of the state of Palestine, must be translated into physical reality. The Baghdad summit must show credibility by supporting the intifadah and the Palestinian political movement, and forging Arab relations with world countries according to how they stand on the question of our people's rights.

Our heroic Palestinian people: The UNLI congratulates our Palestinian masses and all Arab and Muslim peoples on the occasion of 'Id-al-Adha which this year comes as our people are determined to press forward toward victory. In the meantime, it stresses the following:

—Our people's pride in and adherence to the PLO Executive Committee resolutions, which have stressed the need to confront all U.S. pressures and attempts at extortion and threats to break off the dialogue with the PLO.

—Appreciation of the hunger strike mounted by a number of national figures to protest the massacre of Palestinian workers in Rishon Leziyyon. We also appreciate the solidarity shown by our people with the hunger strikers.

Regarding this, the UNLI asserts the following: All sectors of our people must boycott official contacts with the U.S. Consulate and any official U.S. delegate, as well as U.S. goods, and must empty these goods from the markets of our independent state.

The UNLI also calls on Arab peoples to adopt strong measures against the United States which might threaten U.S. interests in the Arab world, to force the United States to change its positions.

The UNLI views with satisfaction Soviet President Gorbachev's statements about banning the settlement of immigrants from the Soviet Union in the lands of Palestine. We call on the Soviet Union to immediately translate this into action.

The UNLI also calls for an expanded base for the local committee's action, and for an immediate start to the developing the project of family cooperation for the sake of the working class locally. The PLO bears responsibility for this project to make available the means for supporting projects and production processes, thus enabling our workers to remain steadfast and to be able to earn a livelihood for their families.

It also calls for reinforcing the boycott of Israeli goods. The UNLI urges our valiant merchants not to market Israeli goods. The strike forces also should assume their responsibility in opposing the mongers of these goods, especially agricultural goods.

O heroes of the war of liberation: May your hands be safe—the hands that have taught and are still teaching the enemy lessons in opposition and confrontation. May your firebombs, axes, and knives all be safe, in Jabalyah, al-Shati', Gaza, Tulkarm and its camp, Janin, Nabulus, Ramallah, Hebron, and holy Jerusalem, and at all the positions of daily confrontation. May your hands be safe—the hands that are spreading terror in the hearts of the occupation's soldiers and settlers.

While cherishing with you all these heroic deeds, which you are inscribing with your flesh and blood on the path of liberation and independence, the UNLI calls on all elements of the strike forces to escalate their heroic strikes against the herds of Zionist settlers and the military posts in the lands of our independent state. Let the road of the Zionists be filled with nails and oil; let the checkpoints be struck by firebombs; let the mass confrontations continue against the occupation army; and let the enemy's camps be stormed, the way our heroes did in Jabalyah and in other camps.

The UNLI urges the masses of our people to abide by the following program:

—14 June shall be a day of massive anger to protest the U.S. veto and to assert our people's backing for the PLO in confronting U.S. pressures and rejecting extortion.
—15 June shall be a day of family solidarity and visits to the families of martyrs, wounded, and detainees.
—On 16 June, shops will remain open until 1900.
—17 June shall be a day of distinguished escalation on the anniversary of heroes Muhammad Jamjum, 'Ata al-Zir, and Fu'ad Hijazi, who were martyred at Akko prison for defying the executioner and defending the dignity of their people and their freedom.
—18 June shall be a day of distinguished escalation in solidarity with our detainees and their struggle for their rights. Demonstrations and sit-ins will be staged in front of Red Cross headquarters.
—On 19 June massive demonstrations shall be staged in which all our Palestinian people everywhere shall take part to protest the daily massacres of our people.
—On 20 June a comprehensive strike shall be staged one month after the death of our workers in 'Ayn Qarah, for the martyrs who fell in the homeland, and on the occasion of the martyred Palestinian children's day. Palestinian and black flags will be hoisted over every Palestinian house. Lights will be switched off at 2100 for 15 minutes during which whistles of protest will be blown.
—On 22 June, prayers for the martyrs shall be performed and demonstrations will be staged after the prayers. Churches will ring bells of sadness.
—23 June shall be a day of struggle to demand that universities be reopened. University students and workers will head for their universities to protest their closure for more than three months, to demand that universities be reopened, and to stress their insistence on education.
—On 27 June, traffic will be halted throughout occupied Palestine at 1000 for five minutes. Our students at schools will observe a minute of silence after which they will collectively chant the Palestinian anthem, Fida'i Biladi [I sacrifice my life for my country].
—28 June shall be a day of comprehensive strike to protest the annexation of Jerusalem, the capital of our independent state.
—29 June shall be a day of escalation on Jerusalem day to stress its Arabism, to defend it, and to express rejection of the enemy's decision to annex and Judaize it.
—1 July shall be the day of Palestinian folklore, on which folkloric exhibitions shall be mounted, our people will wear national costumes, a folkloric dance and song festival will be held, and shops will open all day on the eve of 'Id al-Adha to enable citizens to purchase what they need. Merchants can open their shops until 2200.
—The first day of 'Id al-Adha shall be considered a day for visiting martyrs' tombs and the wounded, and a day of confrontation against the occupation troops.

On this day, Palestinian flags shall be hoisted, roads to settlements blocked, and shops opened all day.

—Other days of 'Id al-Adha shall be days for continuing visits to the families of detainees as an expression of our people's solidarity with them.

Long live the intifadah. Victory is inevitably ours.

Commentary Criticizes 13 Jun Baker Remarks

JN1506063190 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1758 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Commentary by political editor: "When Baker Speaks"]

[Text] Yesterday, enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir made public some of the policies of his government. In brief, Shamir said that the absorption of new immigrants and their unrestricted settlement in all parts of occupied Palestine will be the paramount task of his government. He also said that his government will step up official and organized repression in a bid to curb daily confrontations between the Zionist Army troops—which have been assigned the task of crushing the intifadah after the failure of the police and security forces—and the masses of the valiant intifadah.

Also yesterday, Shamir affirmed that the so-called security of his entity and settlers can only be guaranteed by enhancing the capabilities of the enemy's army and bolstering the strategic alliance with the United States—the ally that never hesitates to affirm on all occasions its firm and unshakable commitment to the security and superiority of the enemy's entity.

One more thing—the U.S. secretary of defense said yesterday that the objective of this alliance is to achieve peace. Of course, we do not need a miraculous power to guess the kind of peace to which the U.S. official is referring. It seems that the U.S. secretary has not sought to go beyond the confines imposed by official protocol, and that he left Vice President Dan Quayle the task of announcing the latest developments pertaining to the U.S. position. Quayle addressed a conference held by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee saying: When you stand on the hilltops of Judaea and Samaria overlooking Jerusalem, you see the Israeli land extending before your eyes. He was referring to the dangers posed by an Israeli withdrawal from this strategic area.

As for the president of the U.S. Zionist Jewish organizations, he underscored the significance and implications of this position. Simon [word indistinct] viewed this statement as peculiarly significant. He said that he has not heard any previous U.S. president or vice president make such an unequivocal statement. As of a matter of fact, this was an unprecedented statement. Quayle reiterated Shamir's statements, which view the West Bank and Gaza Strip as part of Israeli land. He even used the Zionist name for them so that there can be no possible misunderstanding.

Moreover, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker attempted yesterday evening to place the Middle East peace issue in another vicious circle in a blatant attempt to absolve his administration of any responsibility for obstructing the serious international efforts to achieve a just and lasting peace in the region. This obstruction of peace efforts has been caused by the unlimited support of his administration for the Zionist entity—and for this entity's declared stands—when there is a choice between objectivity and peace, on the one hand, and the interests of the enemy's entity on the other. Yesterday Baker tried to insinuate that his administration does not share Shamir's ambitions, designs, and pretensions on the alleged peace. Baker was one of the first U.S. officials to welcome Shamir's plan, which was proposed in May of last year—the plan that spoke of autonomy for the Palestinian residents—autonomy ruling out any authority over or any association with the land, considering that expulsion will be their fate sooner or later, as Shamir deludes himself into believing.

As a matter of fact, we have to say that Baker was consistent with his own thinking and also with the policy of his government. A series of U.S. positions and attitudes helped Shamir come back to power in the enemy's entity. This was made possible through the aid given to help Jewish settlement in occupied Palestine and also through the cover provided for the Zionist entity's crimes by using the right to veto at international organizations. This happened at the UN Security Council last month. Lastly, the United States threatened to cut off the dialogue with the PLO in response to an old declared Israeli demand.

It seems that Baker sought to play a game of trickery and deceit once again to buy time and belittle his administration's role in creating the climate for the return to power of Shamir and company—old members of the Irgun and Stern gangs which have a long experience in killing, terrorism, and the torpedoing of any efforts leading us away from them.

Baker told the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee that regional peace—that is, Middle East peace—is achievable only if Israel changes its current position. Here, we would like to address the following question to Baker: Has Shamir added anything new to that which he proposed one year ago? Is there really a declared Shamir stand of which Baker is not aware? Baker is a strange man. Did he need more than one year to know, as he said literally, that Israel has been rejecting all the efforts, proposals, and attempts seeking to attain the desired regional peace? The issue only concerned a distribution of roles. Furthermore, can it be true that Baker does not know that the continued Israeli obstruction of peace efforts is not so much a temperamental matter as it is physical and material evidence showing the essential dimension of the natural alliance binding the United States to the Zionist enemy.

If we were to say nothing about this, we would still have the following question to pose: Why is Baker threatening

to abandon his peace efforts if he knows in advance what Shamir's response to such a development would be?

Browbeating has always been a trait of U.S. policy. The fact that filters through all of this is that Baker seeks nothing but to pave the way for absolving his administration of its international responsibility for peace and to open the doors wide to Zionist belligerence, contending that he said what had to be said, and walked away.

Further on Reported PLO Probe of Tel Aviv Raid

JN1406204790 Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in Arabic 13 Jun 90 pp 1, 2

[By 'Ali Ballut]

[Text] Tunis—The search is still on for a compromise to salvage the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue from the wreckage of last week's Tel Aviv raid mounted by the Palestine Liberation Front. Sweden has joined in the mediation effort between the PLO and the U.S. Administration. Sweden had played a key role in setting up the dialogue to begin with. The last proposal to be floated was cabled by Khalid al-Hasan from Washington to Tunis within the past 24 hours. Al-Hasan had previously conferred with two Arab ambassadors in Washington, and the three came up with the following suggestion: That the PLO issue a statement saying it is setting up an investigation committee to probe the Tel Aviv operation, and state that the committee's terms of reference are to establish the aim or aims of the raid. If the committee's findings are that the operation was targeted against Israeli civilians, then the PLO will look into the possibility of punishing Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas]".

Yasir 'Arafat asked whether the U.S. Administration had been advised of the proposal and how it had reacted. He was told that the proposal would become feasible after it was okayed by the PLO. 'Arafat replied as follows: It is necessary that the suggestion win the U.S. Administration's approval before it is discussed on various levels of the Palestinian leadership. Thus, the ball is now in the American court, especially since 'Arafat would like first to secure Washington's acceptance before he throws his political and moral weight behind the required statement. This despite 'Arafat's deep disappointment when he had to go to Geneva to address a UN general Assembly session last month. The U.S. Administration at the time promised that it would consent to the dispatch of a fact-finding committee to the occupied Arab land if he should request one, and subsequently 'Arafat proceeded to Geneva on that understanding. After 'Arafat delivered his Security Council address and before he left the Swiss city, the Americans told him that "they had changed their mind". The Palestinian leader is now anxious to receive assurances that the U.S. Administration will not "change its mind once again" reagarding the proposed "compromise solution" to the crisis of the dialogue, as it did in Geneva.

It is important that the Palestinian leadership no longer regard the dialogue with the United States in its present form as a matter of great urgency. "If the United States is prepared to develop the dialogue so that it will produce tangible results, the PLO will once again be prepared to nurse its wounds and show restraint. But if the question is nothing less than political blackmail, it would be better to halt the dialogue today rather than tomorrow".

The letters sent by the PLO to Washington are within this framework, "emphasizing that the PLO thinks American and Palestinian interests are served by a continuation of the dialogue, provided the national dignity of the Palestinian people and their legitimate right to resistance against foreign occupation is preserved."

Strikingly, the United States has over the past three days changed its tone with the PLO, implying that Washington, having been convinced that 'Arafat had no prior knowledge of the operation, now favors a compromise as a way out of the crisis created by the Tel Aviv raid. But the Zionist lobby active in the United States is moving at full steam to see to the termination of the dialogue by the U.S. Administration. At the same time, the Zionist lobby is laying the groundwork for working out a political deal between the new Shamir government and the U.S. Administration. The Zionist lobby wants Washington to refrain from translating its dissatisfaction with the extreme rightwing government in Israel into action in return for the Zionist lobby condoning any compromise formula whereby the dialogue with the PLO is kept going.

As the PLO sees it, the United States is more likely than not to freeze or suspend the dialogue, and expects a relevant decision in the coming 48 hours. "It is against the background of the anticipated American decision that the PLO will rethink its position on the stalemate in the conflict with Israel caused by the constraints on Palestinian action and rhetoric imposed by the dialogue with Washington."

'Arafat Sends Message to Nonaligned Movement

LD1406190690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1655 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] Tunis, 14 June (SPA)—The Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat today sent an urgent message to Borisav Jovic, president of the SFRY Presidency and chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, concerning the Palestinian request to convene an emergency session of the UN General assembly under the slogan "Unity for the sake of peace."

In his message, 'Arafat said that the Palestinian request came after the failure of the UN Security Council to adopt a suitable resolution to deal with the deteriorating situation in the occupied Palestinian territories—a situation which deteriorated even more after the appalling massacres committed by the occupation forces against the Palestinian people. He pointed out that the situation became more alarming after the formation of the Israeli war government.

'Arafat pointed out that the U.S. veto can only be interpreted as a support of and encouragement to the continuation of the occupation and as a blowing up of the process of establishing a just peace.

The Palestinian president stressed that the victims of the Zionist occupation are 1200 martyrs; 80,000 wounded; 7,000 crippled; 6,000 miscarriages; and 85,000 detainees. He warned that the continuation of the Israeli violence and crimes will breed instability in the region and will lead to reactions.

'Arafat called on the Yugoslav president, in his capacity as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, to work toward protecting the Palestinian people from the Israeli massacres and toward pushing forward the peace process in the region.

The Palestinian president also addressed today a message to the Finnish government concerning developments in the Middle East situation.

The message was conveyed by Dr. Zuhayr al-Wazir, PLO representative in Finland, when he was received by Finnish foreign minister Pertti Paasio this morning at the Finnish Foreign Ministry.

Paper Reports Israeli 'Hit List' of Palestinians

JN1406145990 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 13 Jun 90 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the PLO recently received authentic information through friendly European and African states on an Israeli plan to assassinate a number of prominent Palestinian leaders in order to confuse the PLO and deal a blow to the Palestinian intifadah in the occupied territories. Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat tops a hit list of 10 Palestinian leaders prepared by the Mosad. The list includes Faruq Qaddumi, also known as Abu-al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department; Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu-Iyad, second in command of the Fatah movement; and Hakam Bal'awi, Palestine ambassador to Tunisia. Authoritative Palestinian sources said that in light of the seriousness of this information, President Yasir 'Arafat decided to cancel a visit to Addis Ababa to attend the African summit conference on 10 July. 'Arafat also asked Qaddumi not to take part in this conference and to assign Jamal al-Surani, secretary of the PLO Executive Committee, to lead the Palestinian delegation to the conference. The sources added that 'Arafat also canceled several visits he had planned to pay to a number of African states before and after the conference.

Abu-Sharif, Perron Hold Talks in Canada

LD1306110590 Kuwait KUNA in English 0955 GMT 13 Jun 90

[Text] Ottawa, June 13 (KUNA)—Canada has expressed profound concern at the dangerous situation in the occupied Arab territorties and the threat it poses to peace process in the region.

The Canadian gesture was made Tuesday during a meeting between Deputy Minister of External Affairs for Africa and Middle East Marc Perron and Bassam Abu-Sharif, Palestine president Yasir 'Arafat's advisor.

A Foreign Ministry statement said the meeting tackled the situation in occupied Arab territories and peace process in the area. The statement said Perron urged the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to adhere to its firm stand envisaging a negotiated settlement to the conflict.

The statement voiced concern at the "tragedy" of the Palestinian people under occupation, adding Canada was worried about the continued Israeli violations of human rights.

For his part, Abu-Sharif said he briefed the Canadian officials on the Israeli atrocities and esclation of Israeli violence against the Palestinian people and the formation of an expansionist and anti-peace government.

Abu-Sharif, who reiterated renunciation of all forms of terrorism said the Canadians had promised to continue efforts to bring about a peaceful settlement.

He said the Canadian side had expressed concern over the recent attack on Israeli beaches by the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF] and appreciated the PLO's statement on renunciation of terrorism.

The U.S. has called on 'Arafat to denounce the operation and to take disciplinary measures against Abu-Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas], leader of the PLF.

However, the PLO condemned military operations against civilians but the U.S. said the organization has falled short of meeting the American demand.

Asked on why the PLO would directly condemn the PLF, Abu-Sharif said no one can dictate any conditions on the PLO.

He said the American Administration had vetoed the sending of a fact-finding mission to the occupied Arab territories and Israel is rejecting all peace bids while the PLO had exerted every possible effort to bring about a settlement to the conflict.

"We are not obliged to present a certificate of good conduct to anyone," Abu-Sharif said.

PLO's headquarters in Tunisia said Abu-Sharif conferred with the Jewish community in Toronto and warned them against the dangerous situation in the Middle East resulting from the formation of Shamir's extremist government and urged them to exercise pressure on the Israeli Government in order to end occupation and desist from violating Palestinian human rights.

The statement said Abu-Sharif assured the Jewish community of the PLO's willingness to negotiate with Israel in pursuit of a political settlement that would end occupation and guarantee the legitimate national rights of the Palestinians.

It said Abu-Sharif held the U.S. responsible for the deteriorating situation in the Middle East because it provides Israel with economic and military assistance and support its oppressive policies.

Milhim Discusses Evolution of Arab Situation

JN1506093090 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 15 Jun 90 p 15

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Text] Muhammad Milhim, member of the PLO Executive Committee, has said that at an early hour last Thursday he saw three Soviet Aeroflot planes and another Polish plane landing at Larnaca Airport in Cyprus carrying Soviet Jewish emigrants en route to occupied Palestine. In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, Milhim warned against the media blackout practiced by the occupation authorities on Jewish emigration, the Zionist attempts to conceal the locations where the emigrants are being settled, the construction of new settlements, and the expansion of existing ones.

Muhammad Milhim said that intensifying the emigration only means "Greater Israel." He noted that Israeli officials are not disguising their intentions in the occupied territory; these intentions are underscored by the formation of Shamir's new government.

Milhim said: The Arab countries are called on to put real pressures on the United States and the USSR to stop "the farce" of immigration to the Palestinian homeland. He added that there is no difference now between the two superpowers, because the Soviets are exporting their citizens by opening the doors of emigration, and the Americans are giving money to settle the emigrants and are providing political and diplomatic protection in the international quarters.

Muhammad Milhim highlighted the importance of Arab adherence to the Arab summit resolutions and the giving of true political support to the Palestinian peace initiative. He said the PLO Central Council, which is considered a link between the Executive Committee and the Palestine National Council, will hold a session at the beginning of next month either in Baghdad or Tunis to reassess developments in the Palestine question and peaceful efforts, as well as define the parameters of the PLO's next move.

He said that the Central Council will give an answer to the question "What next?" because peaceful solutions are being obstructed by Israeli intransigence, intensified emigration, and the U.S. threat to stop the dialogue with the PLO. He added: Palestinian actions approved by the PLO Executive Committee in its recent meeting in Baghdad are focused at the present time on escalating the intifadah and directing it toward a new, militant stage to abort the designs of the Shamir government to quell the intifadah. Milhim added that this escalation does not mean the use of arms, except in the framework of comprehensive Arab coordination.

Milhim said that the Arab nation has felt the danger of emigration and the Israeli threat to pan-Arab security, but has not translated this into practical programs and policies to preserve the Arab order from encroachment and Arab territory from occupation.

Algeria

Further on 12 Jun Local Elections

Bendjedid Votes, Comments

LD1206154490 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Jun 90

[Excerpt] The president of the republic, Mr. Chadli Bendjedid, carried out, like the 13 million Algerian voters, his duty to vote. Ahmed Fadli followed the event and prepared a report on the subject:

[Fadli] The citizen Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic, was among those who carried out their vote duty. He cast his vote—at El Ghazali school in the Mouradia quarter—like the remaining millions of voters, the Algerian citizens, men and women.

After he cast his vote, we put the following question to the president of the republic, Mr. Chadli Bendjedid:

[Begin recording] [Fadli] Your Excellency the President, what do you wish to say to the members of the popular municipal councils after they win and what do you wish to the whole Algerian people?

[Bendjedid] I wish that the brothers, who will be lucky to win in these elections at the level of municipalities and provinces, will be at the level of the trust people put in them, regardless of any current or any program to which they are affiliated. The important thing is that they are at the level of the trust which the Algerian people put in them through their choice as those who would deal with their local affairs. We know today that the powers of the municipality have become great. They have potential, from the legal aspect and also from that of municipal management, and thus tomorrow these officials will not be able to tell the citizens of the municipalities that the matter is not up to them it is up to the central level. I believe that in the framework of decentralization and the great powers given to the municipal council and the provincial council, the people has become today the one that manages its affairs locally through its representatives with a new conception of things, and I believe that the officials, the elected and the administrative officials at the local level, must have new credibility. This will one day, God willing, reach other levels. [end recording] [passage omitted]

FIS Leader Madani Comments

LD1206170490 Paris International Service in French 1230 GMT 12 Jun 90

[Excerpt] [Announcer] The Algerians have never seen such a thing before—a choice between 12 lists before going into the polling booth: Today Algeria is experiencing its first pluralist elections since independence, communal and departmental elections. [passage omitted] (Patrice Biancone) went to the polling station at the (Idrassant) elementary school, where the leader of the pro-Islamic FIS [Islamic Salvation Front], Abassi Madani, was voting, and he made a brief statement:

[Begin Madani recording] In this way I feel that I am free, this is the main thing us, and this is the symbol of this vote—our people are going to vote freely. That is the main thing. [end recording]

[Announcer] I would add on the subject of Algeria that the pro-Islamic leader of the FIS whom you just heard made it known that he would not be able to control the street reaction in the event of fraud. This morning the leader of the Berber party RCD [Rally for Culture and Democracy] for his part made accusations of irregularities in Kabylie in favor of the FLN [National Liberation Front].

Ben Bella Views Elections

LD1206165490 Paris Domestic Service in French 0620 GMT 12 Jun 90

[Interview with Ahmed Ben Bella, former prime minister, speaking live from Geneva, by studio presenter Annette Ardisson]

[Excerpts] [Ardisson] Our guest is Ahmed Ben Bella, one of the founders of the FLN [National Liberation Front] in 1954. [passage omitted] He has been living in Switzerland since 1980. Mr. President, good day.

[Ben Bella] Good day.

[Ardisson] You are speaking live to us from the Suisse-Romande studios in Geneva. At your side is our correspondent Mireille Lemaresquier. Naturally, we are going to talk about the elections to municipal and departmental councils taking place in Algeria today, the first pluralist elections since 1962. The one unknown factor is the score which will be achieved by the Muslim fundamentalists. Before we analyze the situation, let us talk about your own. Three months ago, your return [to Algeria] was announced: You are however still in Switzerland. Why? Is it your own choice, or is it because the current authorities want none of you?

[Ben Bella] The current authorities want none of me, and I do not want to return because conditions of safety are not ensured. [passage omitted]

[Ardisson] When do you think you will be able to return?

[Ben Bella] I shall return the moment that political life in Algeria reaches the point of no return. I shall not return by dint of a guarantee of safe-conduct from Mr. Chadli [Bendjedid]. I shall return when the Algerian people demand it.

[Ardisson] That is, when Chadli has gone?

[Ben Bella] No, not even when he has gone; when the political situation has developed in such a way that there is already a civilian society which is responsible and which controls the political situation. Unfortunately, that is not the case today.

[Ardisson] I read that the big question mark in the elections, even a fear for some people, is what score will be achieved by the fundamentalists, in other words the FIS, the Islamic Salvation Front. They claim they will get 75 percent of the vote. Does that seem likely to you?

[Ben Bella] Listen, I would say first that this ballot is a hoax [mystification], that the silent majority of Algerians will not give a verdict, or else will give a verdict incorrectly because they will not be giving a verdict on clear and distinct options. Today's ballot is a hoax; it is another ploy by the authorities to stay in existence, to continue. The authorities have not changed their nature: they will cheat, they will stuff the ballot boxes.

[Ardisson] So logically, you should be in favor of a boycott.

[Ben Bella] Yes, I am in favor of a boycott.

[Ardisson] Like Ait Ahmed?

[Ben Bella] I recommend it, I ask the Algerian people to boycott this hoax. [passage omitted]

[Ardisson] If we assume that the conditions for your return are right, with whom would you prefer to make an alliance?

[Ben Bella] With everybody, with a broad democratic front, with no exceptions—from the Communists to the MDA [Movement for a Democratic Algeria] and including the FIS and the others, and Ait Ahmed.

[Ardisson] And the FLN?

[Ben Bella] No, the FLN holds power: It is the party which is the authorities' alibi. We cannot...

[Ardisson, interrupting] So, an alliance with everyone except the FLN?

[Ben Bella] Except the devil, which is what the FLN is. There you have it.

[Ardisson] Do you still believe in the possibility of a military coup, d'etat? You mentioned this recently in a program on a competitor's radio station.

[Ben Bella] Yes, I think that Chadli is obstructing the situation, that the situation is dangerously obstructed, that the system is quickly reaching its limits, and that sooner or later, it will be necessary to really speak about democracy and to implement it, or else it will be a group of military men, a junta, who will take charge of getting rid of him, because he is becoming dangerous first for them.

[Ardisson] You seemed to say a few weeks ago that you had information about this matter?

[Ben Bella] Yes, I have information, I have an enormous number of contacts, and I don't think it is a very great secret: Recently there was an attempt to kill him at the Chateau (?Holden). There was an attempt to kill him because he spends the night there sometimes. The authorities said it was simply a civilian who had lost his way on the road and who had been injured in this...but in reality there was a military action against Chadli, Chadli was not there, and there were deaths in that operation. [passage omitted]

[Ardisson] Thank you, President Ben Bella.

Ben Bella Urges National Elections

LD1306231390 Paris Domestic Service in French 2030 GMT 13 Jun 90

[Excerpts] Elections in Algeria with the victory of the FIS, the Islamic Salvation Front, which is being clearly confirmed. [passage omitted]

A reaction from the former president Ahmed Ben Bella who called for a boycott [of the elections]: He said that Algiers is not Tehran. The regime has recorded a very bad defeat; a 40 percent abstention rate is considerable, he said. The former Algerian president said that he wishes to return to Algeria to participate, as he stressed, in true general elections. He remains convinced that the current regime should resign following such a vote of rejection.

[Begin recording] [Ben Bella] They are asking for the National Assembly to be dissolved. This is good. But I would like elections to be held under supervision, that is under observation. I no longer trust this government. I would like to see a fresh start. The month of June has given a terrible answer to this government. [words indistinct] You should go, if you accept dialogue, do it seriously with the other parties. Create some kind of forum. Ait Ahmed [Socialist Forces Front leader] talked about this, I agree, in order to provide real conditions for a real democratization of the country instead of a system that breaks the civilian society. [words indistinct] I was opposed to this. The Algerians will oppose this. We don't want a society with no future. We don't want mistakes made elsewhere. Algerian society is open and tolerant. It should advance toward this goal. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Bendjedid Pleased With Results

LD1406235190 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] The Council of Ministers met today at the Presidency of the Republic under the chairmanship of President Chadli Bendjedid. During the meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the interior minister on the proceedings of the 12 June local elections and their results.

He pointed out that the polling conditions had in fact reflected the irreversible democratic process.

President Chadli Bendjedid expressed his pleasure at the manifestation of the popular will in a climate of quiet and democracy, in the context of respect for constitutional rules and methods, and the exercise of individual and collective freedoms.

The president of the republic on the other hand urged the government to pursue its action with stronger determination to guarantee the regular and continuous march of public institutions, administrations, and facilities in an atmosphere of respect for law and legitimacy.

The president also urged the citizens, men and women, and all the political, social, and cultural groups to remain in solidarity with one another in order to deepen the democratic march in all domains, and in order to further strengthen the state of the rule of law.

On its part, the Council of Ministers insistingly calls on the workers of the administration and the economic and social sectors to be more mobilized in order to guarantee the continuity and efficiency of their activities. The Council also stressed the need to provide rapidly the best conditions for the new local assemblies to immediately put themselves at the service of the citizens.

Mohamedi Reports Results

LD1406225290 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] Mr. Mohamed Salah Mohamedi, the interior minister, held a press conference at the Ibn Khaldoun Hall this evening in which he presented the final results of the municipal and provincial elections.

Concerning the popular municipal assemblies, the general turnout was 65.15 percent. The Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] won the majority in 853 municipalities, followed by the National Liberation Front [FLN] with 487 municipalities.

As for the lists of independents, they obtained 106 municipalities, and the Rally for Culture and Democracy [RCD] has come fourth obtaining a majority in 87 municipalities.

Concerning three other parties—the Social Democratic party, the National Party for Development and Solidarity, and the Algerian Renewal Party, each of them won a majority in two municipalities.

It is worth mentioning that two municipalities are excluded from these results: the municipality of Barbara of the province of Khanchela where the voting operation was postponed, and the municipality of Meselmoun in the province of Tipaza where the poll was cancelled by the competent commission.

At national level, the number of electors was 8,366,760 and the number of those recorded in electoral lists is 12,841,769. As for the percentages [of the vote] obtained by the political groups, they are as follows:

The Islamic Salvation Front in the lead with 55.42 percent; it is followed by the FLN with 31.64 percent; independents: 6.87 percent; the Rally for Culture and Democracy: 5.65 percent; the other three parties: 0.13 percent.

Concerning the popular provincial assemblies, the Islamic Salvation Front won the majority. It had a majority in 32 provinces. It is followed by the FLN with a majority in 14 provinces. As for the Rally for Culture and Democracy and the Independents, they each obtained a majority in one province.

The turnout in the popular provincial assemblies elections was 64.15 percent.

Saadi Criticizes Election Boycott

LD1406150690 Algiers APS in English 1316 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] Algiers, 14/6/90 (APS)—"There will be something new by the beginning of July as concerns the channeling of the democratic flow", the secretary general of the Gathering for Democracy and Culture [Rally for Culture and Democracy], Said Saadi, told a press conference here Wednesday.

Dealing with the results of the local and regional elections, Saadi qualified as "non responsible" the decision taken by some to boycott the elections.

Moreover, he refused the immediate dissolution of the People's National Assembly and proposed in return the constitution of "a government of transition."

FLN To Issue Statement

LD1406150190 Algiers APS in English 1318 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] Algiers, 14/6/90 (APS)—The Political Bureau of the National Liberation Front (FLN) will issue at the beginning of next week, a political statement, after the announcement of the definite results of the local elections of June 12, it was known from informed sources. The statement will include the official commentary of the FLN on the elections, the same sources pointed out.

APS Analyzes Results

LD1406145790 Algiers APS in English 1300 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] Algiers, 14 June (APS)—There is no doubt that the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) won a large victory in the June 12 elections for the renewal of local and regional councils. It went beyond all prognostics that even though gave the FIS as a winner never predicted such a large victory. It is a fact that this victory was possible thanks to the militants and sympathizers of the FIS. But partly only as, one should not forget that nearly half of electors did not vote on June 12. This is for at least three reasons. First there is a mass of people who never vote. But have the people who usually claim the implementation of constitutional rights really, measured the importance of their abstention? By not voting, they left an empty ground for those who managed to occupy it and whom they fought.

In addition to that, there were the calls for boycott of the FFS [Socialist Forces Front] party led by Ait Ahmed and the MDA [Movement for Democracy in Algeria] led by Ben Bella. Whatever are their justifications, they participated in the victory of the FIS.

But the most ambigious attitude remains the one of tens of thousands of the FLN [National Liberation Front] militants. At a time where their party presented itself as the party of reforms and democracy, they deliberately chose not to take part in this vote which was considered as determining for the renovation of the FLN. In this context, one can consider that the elections of June 12 were a sanctions against the party which led the country during 28 years.

They did not vote for the FLN because instead of drawing lessons from what happened after October, and accept some new realities, the FLN chose to carry out the battle alone.

Moreover, the FLN, more than the other parties left the battle ground free for the FIS which occupied it completely. Even though this has been through contestable practices.

To conclude, one must not forget that these elections are only local elections and that in no way they can harm the spirit and the letter of the Constitution voted on February 23 by the Algerian people and which reinforced the universal principles of freedoms and democracy. In this context, one notes that once in contacts with the daily life problems the FIS would also learn democracy, the respect of the others' rights and conviviality.

The June 12 elections, beyond their final results, which are not yet known, will serve to give more consistance to the political landscape.

FLN Secretary General on Rivals, Islamic Policy

JN0806143890 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic
6 Jun 90 p 7

[Interview with Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the National Liberation Front in Algeria, by Aminah al-Naqqash in Algiers; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Naqqash] I told Abdalhamid Mehri; after more than a quarter-century rule, what are the challenges that are facing the National Liberation Front [FLN] now?

[Abdelhamid] The greatest challenge the FLN faces now is that it cannot abandon the leadership, since there is no substitute that can shoulder this task. Despite the burdens it has carried throughout the past years, facts indicate that we will continue to bear the burden of leadership. This means that the FLN must learn all the lessons it can from its past, so that it can adapt itself and rectify its mistakes and negative aspects, and continue propagating its message. [passage omitted]

[Al-Naqqash] Where does the idea that there is no substitute for the FLN come from, and to what extent do you accept the idea of sharing authority with the other parties?

[Abdelhamid] To a certain extent, we can presently foresee that there is no alternative to the FLN. However, the open course of democracy makes it theoretically a great possibility that other political parties or forces, other than the FLN, can take over the lead, if this stems from democratic practice. There are no barriers in the constitution or the ruling system that prevent such an exchange of power from taking place—as long as it takes place through elections and by the will of the Algerian people. [passage omitted]

[Al-Naqqash] How do you evaluate the political map in Algeria presently, and where is the FLN's position on this map?

[Abdelhamid] The FLN holds a distinguished position in the heart of the current political map, due to its deep historic and popular roots.

The march recently organized by the FLN indicated that this dimension still exists alongside the other opposition parties. However, I believe the problem is that the opposition finds difficulty in realizing an alternative program to that of the FLN, whose programs will provide for the real, objective needs of the majority of the Algerian people. It is not easy to find an alternative that would enjoy the popular credibility of the FLN's program. [passage omitted]

[Al-Naqqash] There is some speculation that the Islamic Salvation Front—the Muslim brotherhood—is about to come to power in Algeria. What is your comment on that?

[Abdelhamid] Theoretically, anything is possible. This, of course, depends on the development of the society and the people's opinion first and foremost, and to what extent they accept the program of any party and feel comfortable with it, whether it is the Islamic Front party or any of the other parties. Anything is possible.

[Al-Naqqash] Some observers note that the FLN is confronting the influence of the Islamists by using their own methods. Don't you believe that storming politics with religion is harmful to democracy?

[Abdelhamid] I do not believe so. The Islamic dimension has always been present in the FLN's march, whether in theory or practice. Our fixed motto has always been: Islam is our religion, Arabic our language, and Algeria our homeland. This motto has been present ever since the Algerian national movement and the FLN were established. It was included in the national charter in both 1976 and 1986. We did not wait for the emergence of a specific Islamic movement to consider Islam part of the Algerian personality and our national platform and view.

[Al-Naqqash] Then why does the FLN complain about using mosques for political action?

[Abdelhamid] We make a distinction between two things: The general purpose of the mosque, which is prayer, and using the mosque as a headquarters for party and election activity in the narrow sense of the word.

What the FLN demands is that political and election activity be removed from the mosques immediately. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Finance Minister Presents 1990-91 General Budget

JN3005194890 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 27 May 90 p 3

[Text] Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad al-Razzaz has announced that the general budget for the next year amounts to 41.247 billion Egyptian pounds, compared to 30.306 billion pounds for the current year, 1989-90. Addressing a People's Council session chaired by Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub yesterday, he said that available sources of finance for this budget amount to 37.472 billion Egyptian pounds and that the net deficit amounts to 3.775 billion pounds. Five hundred million pounds of this deficit will be covered by government bonds, and the remainder, 3.275 billion pounds, by the banking system.

He said that the budget allocates 3.579 billion pounds in subsidies, with 2.2 billion pounds going to essential foods, 389 millions for agricultural production needs, and 702 million pounds to cover part of the interest on the soft loans—a part equal to the difference between bank interest rates and the reduced interest rates on loans to food security, land reclamation, and housing projects. Forty-five million pounds will be earmarked to subsidize butane gas, and 243 million pounds to subsidize other commodities and services, especially basic medicines, children's milk, and public transport in Cairo and Alexandria.

He said that 2.791 billion pounds were allocated for social security and retirement—an increase of 30 percent over the allocations in the current budget, which stand at 2.153 billion pounds. A sum of 3.502 billion was allocated for education, 960 million pounds for health services, and 169 millions for cultural and media services. The total sum allocated for social services, thus, amounts to 4.631 billion pounds compared to 3.930 billion pounds in the current budget.

The minister explained that 40 percent of the total investment in the new budget was allocated to serve social justice. It amounted to 11.001 billion pounds compared to 8.145 billion pounds in the current budget. This sum is divided among subsidies, education, research, youth, social security and retirement, and health, social, religious, cultural, and media services.

The total investment in the general budget amounted to 16.1 billion pounds, of which 10 billion pounds were allocated for the public and government sector and 6.1 billion pounds for the private sector.

The investments of the public and government sector were divided as follows:

3.249 billion pounds for public sector institutions.

6.751 billion pounds for the various sectors. These are as follows:
—agriculture and irrigation: 847.2 million pounds.
—industry, oil, and mining: 219.3 million pounds.
—electricity and energy: 1.3894 billion pounds.
—transportation and communications: 905 million pounds.
—supply and trade: 11 million pounds.
—finance and economy: 22.1 million pounds.
—housing and constructions: 1.4497 billion pounds.
—medical, social, and religious services: 191.4 million pounds.
—education, research, and youth: 590.7 million pounds.
—culture and information: 135.9 million pounds.
—tourism and aviation: 244.3 million pounds.
—defense, security, and justice: 87.8 million pounds.
—presidential services: 54.4 million pounds.
—insurance: 8.7 million pounds.
—public departments: 202.8 million pounds.
—general offices of local administrative units: 374.2 million pounds.
—national investment bank: 0.6 million pounds [figure as published]
—central bank: 8.9 million pounds.

The minister added that he has allocated a further 7.140 billion Egyptian pounds, compared with the 6.250 billion pounds in the current budget, which is an increase of 890 million pounds, or 14 percent. The 900 million pounds are in allocations for wages to meet the costs of the new social increment fixed by President Mubarak at 15 percent, starting from the beginning of next July. The allocations for wages also include the necessary sums to grant the periodic increment due on 1 July 1990 and the incentive increment of about 10 percent for workers.

He said that the interest and expenses of the general public debt in the new budget amount to 6.140 billion pounds, compared with 2.851 billion pounds in the current budget—an increase of 3.288 billion pounds. The interest on the general foreign debt is estimated at 2.222 billion pounds, compared with 761.7 million pounds in the current budget—an increase of 1.460 billion pounds.

The installments on the local public debt in the new budget are estimated at 1.138 billion pounds, compared with 956.5 million pounds in the current budget—an increase of 181.6 million pounds. The installments on the general foreign debt are estimated at about 3.120 billion pounds, compared with 1.339 billion pounds—an increase of 1.780 billion pounds.

Dr. al-Razzaz announced that the total expected revenue from taxes in the new budget amounts to 79.15 billion pounds, or 44 percent of the total state revenues. The total taxes are estimated at 3.780 billion pounds, compared with 3.6 billion pounds in the current budget—an increase of 180 million pounds.

The tax on consumption is estimated at 4.2 billion pounds, compared with 3.92 billion pounds in the current budget—an increase of 280 million pounds.

The minister announced that studies are currently being carried out to develop the consumption tax into a sales tax with the objective of simplifying revenue methods, to encourage national industries, and to achieve greater social justice.

The total sum allocated in the new budget to the Armed Forces amounts to 3.1327 billion pounds—an increase of 421.2 million pounds over last year.

Oil revenues amount to 1.679 billion pounds, compared with 780.9 million pounds in the current budget—an increase of 898.8 million pounds. The Suez Canal revenues amount to 1.245 billion pounds, compared with 351.4 million pounds in the current budget—an increase of 893.8 million pounds.

The minister added that the expected revenues from the rest of the economic bodies amount to 152.5 million pounds, compared with 121.7 million pounds in the current budget—an increase of 30.8 million pounds. It is also expected that Central Bank interest will increase to 3.181 billion pounds, compared with 749.7 million pounds in the present fiscal year—an increase of 2.432 billion pounds.

The minister said that the expected increase in the revenues of the Suez Canal, oil, and customs and the installments and interests of local and foreign debt took place mostly due to a price adjustment in the foreign currency exchange rate at the Central Bank where the dollar exchange rate was raised from 70 piasters at the beginning of the current budget to two pounds in the new budget.

The doctor affirmed that at the top of the list of objectives for the new draft budget is allegiance to the demands of the Armed Forces, which are the protective shield for confronting the dangers and challenges to guarantee realizing the necessary peace and security needed to continue economic growth.

The finance minister said that the 16 percent increase in wage allocations amounts to 890 million pounds. He added that this increase will mainly pay for placement training and for surplus graduates. He went on to say that these allocations will cover the costs of the programs designed to train a large number of graduates. These graduates will be trained in high-demand skills, considering that placement training is the proper way to turn the workforce into a force enriching and advancing economic development, the minister said.

The finance minister said the country is interested in reforming the wage system through the formulation of an integrated plan. For this purpose, wage increases totaling 50 percent of incomes were endorsed during the past three years: 20 percent in 1987-88, 15 percent in 1988-89, and another 15 percent in 1989-90, the minister added.

In the field of rationalizing expenditure, the minister said that it has been decided to fix the allocations for current expenditure on the basis of a careful review ruling out any squandering or niggardliness. It has also been decided to benefit from the commodity stock held by government units before engaging in any new procurement deals. It has also been decided that official delegations will go on foreign visits only when important tasks and missions are involved, the minister said.

The finance minister added: The current policy for developing public earnings is mainly based on using tax revenues and espousing a fair system for distributing public burdens. The objective is to make an increase in revenues lead to a fair social system. It is also envisaged that no new burdens will be laid on the shoulders of low income earners. The tax burden must be commensurate with the financiers' financial capabilities.

Dr. al-Razzaz said that the projected revenues from tax collection, which total 7.915 billion pounds, are based on a host of factors, including the expansion of the base of the taxed target population through maintaining the process of classifying taxable agencies and the gradual return to the system of sending missions to report on geographic areas. The minister added: This would facilitate the task of listing the establishments to be taxed. Moreover, the tax exemption for a large number of investment projects will be terminated. The collection of the tax revenues incurred from disputing partners will be activated. Confidence between financiers and tax agencies will be bolstered through developing the bases of tax accountancy and also through affirming the need to maintain the tax booklets approved by chartered accountants. The relevant tax department is currently tackling tax disputes rapidly. This has led to the examination of 523,000 cases and to the finalization of the tax position of 300,000 financiers in the year 1988-89. The tax department has continued to fight tax evasion and to leave room for reconciliations in order to enable financiers to return again to their old ways and methods of solving problems. Moreover, the Ministry of Finance is eager to improve the performance of the tax apparatus through continued training and also through creating the appropriate climate for work.

The finance minister indicated that the revenues targeted from customs in the new budget total 3.780 billion pounds. He added that this projected amount is based on a host of factors, including the collection of customs dues at the earliest possible opportunity, giving attention to the task of collecting the tax revenues to be earned from disputing partners, developing a system of customs arbitration envisaging a specific time limit, maintaining stringent control and monitoring of customs outlets, the continued supply of customs outlets with a list of common commodity prices as well as provisions and regulations regarding tax exemptions. It has also been decided to expand the implementation of the new system on drawing back customs dues on some pattern commodities in accordance with the drawback system, which has been increasingly successful in practical applications and in developing and facilitating relevant measures, the minister concluded.

Kamal Al-Janzuri Details 1990-91 Economic Plan

JN3105103890 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
27 May 90 p 11

[By Sharif Jaballah]

[Text] Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and planning minister, has stressed that the Gross National Product [GNP] in the next year (1990-91) will rise to 91.5 billion Egyptian pounds—an increase of 5.2 percent. Commodity exports will also rise to 6.5 billion pounds—a growth rate of 10.8 percent. In his statement on the 1990-91 economic and social plan, which he delivered before the People's Assembly yesterday, he said the plan aims at carrying out 16.1 billion pounds worth of investments, 10 billion pounds in the public sector and 6.1 billion pounds in the private sector. The plan also aims at achieving a 5.2 percent growth in the GNP over the expected figure for 1989-90—this means an increase of 4.6 billion pounds calculated at 1986-87 prices. Furthermore, the plan aims at reducing the current deficit in the balance of payment to 1.5 billion pounds compared to the expected deficit of 3.2 billion pounds in the 1989-90 plan. This can be achieved by increasing commodity exports by 10.8 percent and reducing commodity imports by 3.8 percent. Dr. al-Janzuri said the economic policy of determining a realistic exchange rate for the Egyptian pound to attract further cash transfers in the banking market will continue. The economic plan, he said, is aimed at creating 531,000 job opportunities, of which 399,000 are new and the other 132,000 are replacements as a result of death, retirement, or resignation.

Dr. al-Janzuri also stressed that the plan is aimed at carrying out investments worth of 16.1 billion pounds. These include 10 billion pounds worth of investments in the public sector—63.1 percent of the total value—and 6.1 billion pounds in the private sector—37.9 percent.

Concerning the distribution of public sector investments, the commodity sectors will receive 5.3 billion pounds—54.2 percent; the social services sectors will receive 2.7 billion pounds—27 percent; and the production services sectors will receive 1.8 billion pounds—18.8 percent of the total investments.

Dr. al-Janzuri stressed that the plan gave great attention to the private sector, in which 6.1 billion pounds will be invested.

Commodity sectors were allocated about 3.105 billion pounds—50.9 percent of the total investments in the private sector. Social services were allocated investments of about 2.307 billion pounds—37.8 percent—and production services were allocated about 688 million pounds—11.3 percent of the total investments in the private sector.

The plan aims to make the industrial sector absorb the bulk of these investments because of its diverse fields of investment and numerous activities that attract investors. Its share will be estimated at 1,950 million pounds—32 percent of the private sector's investments and 62.8 percent of the total investments in the commodity sector.

Investments in the agricultural sector are estimated at 950 million pounds—15.6 percent of the private sector investments or 30.6 percent of the total investments for commodities. These investments are directed at land reclamation and exploitation to increase agricultural lands. The investments are also directed at developing and improving the existing methods of agricultural production, promoting mechanization, and increasing animal wealth, poultry, and fishing.

In the contracting sector, investments are estimated at 205 million pounds in the ratio of 3.3 percent of the overall investments and 6.6 percent of the investments in the commodity sector.

The production services sector will receive 11.3 percent of the overall private sector investments and the transportation and communications sector will receive the bulk of this amount. This will be 72.7 percent of the production services or 8.2 percent of the private sector investments.

The social services sector investments will amount to 2,307 million pounds or 37.8 percent of the private sector investments. The housing sector enjoys top place, receiving 2,222 million pounds or 36.4 percent of the private sector investments—96.3 percent of the total investments earmarked for social services.

Al-Janzuri noted that the plan is aimed at reducing the current balance of payments deficit in the new year's plan to 1.5 billion pounds from its 3.2 level in 1989-1990. This must be realized by increasing the volume of industrial commodities exports by 10.8 percent and reducing imports of the same by 3.8 percent. The plan envisages a 29.6 percent increase in agricultural production, taking into consideration the available amounts of cotton, onions, vegetables, fruits, and citrus fruits. The plan also envisages a 16 percent increase in industrial exports, emphasizing an increase in nontraditional exports, especially ready-made clothes, wooden furniture, textiles, and metallurgical and leather industries.

With regard to the import of commodities, the plan seeks to curb the import of commodities once the national economy becomes capable of replacing imported commodities. The import of production requirements will increase by 1.2 percent and the import of consumption commodities will decrease by 1.6 percent. Local production will be capable of meeting the demands for imported commodities.

The plan also seeks to reduce imported investments by 13.1 percent as a result of the large foreign investments in the country. An improvement is expected in the trade balance deficit of 10.8 percent as a result of the efforts to correct the structural disequilibrium in this balance.

With regard to invisible transactions, the plan takes into consideration the increase in tourism revenue, which is approximately six percent, and the continuation of economic policies to determine a real exchange rate for the Egyptian pound that would attract more remittances to the free banking market. The plan shows reservations in its estimate of the remittances of Egyptian expatriates and notes the appropriate estimate of services revenues, particularly those related to navigation and transit fees from the Suez Canal. This trend was based on self-reliance and on avoiding any unexpected results.

Dr. al-Janzuri said the plan would create approximately 531,000 job opportunities in the new year, including 399,000 new jobs and approximately 132,000 jobs to replace those who die, retire, or quit their jobs.

The plan also aims at reducing the annual increase in unemployment from 109,800 unemployed during 1989-1990 to 103,200 during 1990-1991.

The plan will achieve these objectives through moving toward projects that use manpower intensively, particularly in small and handicraft industries, financing these projects with easy terms, and removing the difficulties that obstruct efforts to provide these industries with their production requirements. This is in addition to expanding free training programs for producers and workers at work sites so that skilled trainees can go on to train other personnel at other sites.

The 1990-91 plan also aims for a final consumption figure of about 1.855 billion pounds, an increase of 1.8395 billion pounds [figure as published] over the expected figure for 1989-90; this represents a growth rate of 3.9 percent. Family consumption is estimated at 84.4 percent of the total consumption. Family consumption of commodities is estimated to rise by 1 billion pounds, amounting to 33.8 billion pounds, compared to 32.8 billion pounds expected for 1989-90—a growth rate of 3.3 percent. Spending on family consumption of services will also increase by about 0.5 billion pounds—a growth rate of 6.3 percent. Spending on commodities and services represents about 81.9 and 17.9 respectively of total family consumption.

The plan aims at a general consumption of about 7.6 billion pounds—an increase of 313.5 million pounds over 1989-90 and an average growth rate of 4.3 percent. General consumption represents some 15.6 percent of the total final consumption.

Investments in the agricultural sector are estimated at 1.7989 billion pounds, including 950 million pounds in the private sector. Of this total, 609 million pounds were allocated for vertical development, 822 million pounds for horizontal development, and the remainder of 367.3 million pounds for irrigation projects involving both kinds of development.

The 1990-91 plan aims at achieving industrial production of 27.460 billion pounds, calculated on the prices of the base year 1986-87. This represents an increase of 1.82 billion pounds and a growth rate of 7.1 percent over the production expected for 1989-90, which is estimated at 25.64 billion pounds. The public sector is expected to contribute to this achievement by 47.8 percent.

The plan is also designed to raise the GNP of industrial production to 9.195 billion pounds—an increase of 631 million pounds, representing a growth rate of 7.4 percent over that expected for 1989-90, which amounts to 8.564 billion pounds.

Production growth rates in the industrial sectors vary between 5.1 percent in the extraction and mining industries and nine percent in the chemical industries. The total production in four basic activities—food, engineering, chemical, and textile industries—represents about 85 percent of the total industrial production.

The 1990-1991 plan has budgeted 4.5158 billion pounds in investments for the industrial sector representing 53.7 percent of the total investments for commodity production and 28.4 percent of the total national investments. Of this amount, the public sector will receive 2.5658 billion pounds and the private sector 1.9500 billion pounds.

The 1990-1991 plan aims at the production of 52.4 million tonnes of crude oil, gas, and oil byproducts, compared to a projected 50.8 million tonnes in 1989-1990.

The oil sector will receive a services investment totalling 153.5 million pounds in 1990-1991.

As for the electricity sector, the plan aims to increase the generated electric power to 44 billion kilowatt-hours, of which 9.5 billion kilowatt-hours will be generated by hydroelectric power stations and 34.5 billion kilowatt-hours from thermal power stations, compared to a projected 41.9 billion kilowatt-hours in 1989-1990.

Production in transportation and communications will reach 6.52 billion pounds, an increase of 420 million pounds of the projected production of 1989-1990 and a 7.2 percent growth rate.

In the field of communications, the plan envisages a 15.3 percent growth in telephones, 5.4 percent in telex, and 6.3 percent in postal services.

In the 1990-1991 plan, the transportation and communications sector will receive 2.1741 billion pounds in investments, of which 1.6741 billion will be for the public sector and about 500 million for the private sector. Investments in this sector represent 13.7 percent of the total national investments.

As for tourism, which is a main source of national income and a basic source of hard currency, the plan has shown increased interest in improving services in the tourism industry, enhancing the citizens' tourism awareness, providing tourist facilities, and protecting tourist sites from creeping urbanization and environmental pollution.

Within this framework, the tourism plan for 1990-1991 aims at increasing the number of tourists to 2.8 million,

compared with 2.1 million in 1988-1989, and the 2.5 million tourists expected to arrive in 1989-1990; and increasing tourist nights to 24.1 million, compared to 18.4 million in 1988-1989 and the 21.2 million expected in 1989-1990; in addition to increasing the accommodation capacity to 938,000 beds in 1990-1991, compared to 819,000 beds projected in 1989-1990.

The necessary investments for tourism sector projects during 1990-1991 are estimated at 198.6 million pounds, 48.6 million of which are for the public sector and about 150 million for the private sector.

As for the housing sector, the 1990-91 plan aims to establish about 207,800 housing units, including 187,000 in urban areas and 21,000 in the countryside. These units vary according to various housing levels.

As the five-year plan gives priority to low-cost housing in view of the relatively low costs involved and its ability to meet the growing demand for housing units by the low-income citizens, low-cost housing units constitute 70 percent of the planned urban housing units. About 26.3 percent of the housing units have been designed as medium housing units for medium-income citizens. The above medium housing units constitute only 3.2 percent of the housing units. To assert the major role of the private sector in implementing the housing plan, 200,100 units will be constructed by the private sector. This constitutes 95.7 percent of the housing units, while only 6,800 units are planned to be constructed by the public sector, or 3.3 percent of the overall projected number.

Investments worth 2,284 million pounds have been allocated for the housing sector in the 1990-91 plan. This constitutes approximately 14.4 percent of overall national investments. These investments include 62 million pounds for the public sector and 2,222 million pounds for the private sector.

The 1990-91 plan provides for investments of 477.8 million pounds in the field of construction and new cities. This constitutes 3.1 percent of overall national investments. About 176 million pounds have been allocated for construction, and about 301.8 million pounds for new cities.

As for the utilities sector, the 1990-91 plan provides for investments in this sector amounting to approximately 1,376.7 million pounds, constituting 26.8 percent of the overall investments allocated for infrastructure projects (electricity, transportation, telecommunications, and utilities). From this amount, 387 million pounds have been allocated for drinking water projects, 816.1 million pounds for sewage projects, and 173.6 million pounds for other projects.

As for health, the plan projects investments worth about 214 million pounds for health services to complete many projects in order to make advanced health care available.

The 1990-91 plan's investments that are being implemented in various governorates amount to 374.2 million pounds, including about 153.9 million pounds as grants and aid from friendly states to improve basic services and to support infrastructure projects.

Mubarak Receives Telephone Call From King Husayn

NC0906164590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 9 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jun (MENA)—Today President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received a telephone call from His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan. They consulted over certain current developments in the region.

Mubarak Telephones Saddam Husayn 10 Jun

NC1006192090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 Jun 90

[Text] President Husni Mubarak made a telephone call to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn at noon today and exchanged views on developments in the regional situation and in a number of Arab issues.

Syrian Agriculture Minister Concludes Visit

NC0806143990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 8 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 Jun (MENA)—Syrian Agriculture Minister Muhammad Ghabbash left Cairo for home this morning after a four-day [as received] visit to Egypt.

In a predeparture statement, he said that he had attended the meetings of the seven-member ministerial committee held in Cairo 3-6 June. The committee members conducted in-depth discussions of various agricultural issues to determine the long-term requirements of joint Arab action in the field of agricultural development, while at the same time ensuring that this action is in line with the recommendations of the Arab agriculture ministers council, he added. He noted that the committee members had agreed on the amendments to be made to the bylaws of the Arab Organization for Agriculutural Development.

He also pointed out that he had discussed ways to activate bilateral agricultural relations and exchanges of expertise with Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture. He added that he had invited Dr. Wali to visit Syria in the near future, and noted that an Egyptian technical delegation will visit Syria at a date to be determined to discuss promoting agricultural cooperation between the two countries.

Iraqi Education Minister Ends Visit, Departs

NC1106053790 Cairo MENA in English 2120 GMT 10 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, June 10 (MENA)—Iraqi Minister of Education 'Abd al-Qadir Hammudi left here tonight for home after a five-day visit during which he had talks with Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi.

Hammudi also had talks with Minister of Education Ahmad Fathi Surur on aspects of cooperation between Egypt and Iraq in educational fields.

Information Minister Discusses Arabsat Agreement

NC1306071090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 12 Jun 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 12 Jun (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif today attended the signing of an agreement between Egypt and the Arab Satellite Communications Organization, Arabsat. Under the terms of the agreement, Egypt will have access to a wide-band transponder in return for $2 million in annual fees to be paid to Arabsat.

The three-year agreement, which takes effect on 1 November, was signed by Fathi al-Bayyumi, chairman of the Egyptian Radio and Television Federation's board of trustees, and Arabsat Director 'Abd-al-Qadir Bu'ayri.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated that this agreement represents the most significant step taken by Egyptian media in the last decade of the 20th century. It symbolizes a major technological shift in using space for radio and television transmissions, he added. He also noted that the agreement honors the Egyptian media's pledge to President Mubarak and the political leadership to take Egyptian media outside local boundaries to Asia, Africa, and Europe.

Al-Sharif said the agreement marks a historic moment in the history of Egyptian media, coming in the last decade of the 20th century, he said. Under this agreement, al-Sharif said, an Egyptian international space television channel will be launched under the name CAI [expansion not given].

This channel will begin international transmissions in November, when the construction of the satellite earth station is completed. The channel will transmit Egyptian programs to the world at large, and Arab and foreign citizens will be able to receive these programs. [passage omitted]

Minister al-Sharif added that the channel will go through several phases. In its first phase of international transmission, the channel will not earn any profits and will feature outstanding programs from the first and second Egyptian television channels, in addition to news bulletins in different languages.

Minister al-Sharif pointed out that the second phase will be a sophisticated one with a distinctive character. Multilingual programs will be featured during this phase, which it is hoped will make a profit. [passage omitted]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Telephones Ben Ali, King Hassan

LD1506031890 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] There has been a telephone contact between the brother leader of the revolution, President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia, and King Hassan II of Morocco.

During this contact, the brother leader thanked President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali and King Hassan II for the participation of the air forces of the two fraternal countries in the festivities of the Arab Libyan people marking the 20th anniversary of the ousting of the U.S. bases from the Arab Libyan territory, a splendid participation that won the admiration of the masses of the Arab Libyan people, and the delegations that had attended the festivities, from all over the world.

Somali President Ends Visit, Departs

LD1306205990 Tripoli JANA in English 1652 GMT 13 Jun 90

Text] Tripoli, June 13, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—President Mohamed Siad Barre of the republic of sisterly Somalia and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli this morning concluding his visit to great Jamahiriya.

A big official farewell ceremony was held for President Mohamed Siad Barre headed by Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud at Tripoli international airport.

Taking part in the ceremony were: the secretary of the general people's committee, some members of the general people's committee, a number of officers of the armed people, the ambassador and members of the Somali Embassy in Great Jamahiriya.

After shaking hands with those lined up to bid him farewell, President Mohamed Siad Barre accompanied by Staff Major 'Abd al- Salam Jallud headed for the eastern stand while both Allah-u-Akbar and [the) Somali national anthem were played. Following that they both inspected the guard of honour which lined up to salute the Somali president who after that shook hands with Staff Major 'Abd- al-Salam Ahmad Jallud who bid him warm farewell.

*Civil Servant Writes on Economic Fears

90P40051 Tripoli AL-MUWAZZAF in Arabic 19 Apr 90 p 1

[From the "In the Heart" column]

[Text] A letter sent to the newspaper's mailbox by a civil servant bears all the concern, grief, and pain felt by all civil servants who depend solely on their salaries to live, a salary which does not increase but remains frozen, static, if indeed it has not witnessed a decline and

continual erosion. At the same time, we find that prices are increasing and rising daily and that high prices are an enormous wave that has reached every commodity, substance, or object. The market is aflame, burning pockets and hands; smoke, smoke, smoke blinds the eye and constricts the throat.

The civil servant is conquered, impoverished. His grief, pain, and internal hemorrhaging increase. He sees his children and those closest to him ask for things and for necessities which he cannot supply. Ramadan and its well-known costs come and the day of the 'Id al-Fitr approaches—may it find you all well—and the civil servant's helplessness and anxiety increase. It is doubtful that he will receive his salary for April. What is the solution? His children ask for new clothes, and a trip to the shops of individual distributors [private entrepreneurs] makes the blood pressure rise to a dangerous degree, makes the heart race. A little girl's dress costs 45 dinars, shoes are over 10 dinars, a boy's shirt is 10 dinars, and so on and so on. One is at a loss. This civil servant's letter that reached us this week does not express the grief, pain, and concern of just one employee, but that of all employees who depend only, only, only on one salary which will not save him from starvation. If the civil servant or another worker had another income, this subject would not concern him because his problems would be solved. Should the civil servant be forced to look for other jobs, or what?

Saudi Arabia

Fahd Discusses Iranian Relations, Yemen, OPEC

LD1406105890 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0633 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 14 June SPA—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, has said that: in view of its constant policy of serving the Arab motherland, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will not spare an effort to create the best climate for Arab summit meetings, whether such summits are held in Riyadh or elsehwere.

In an interview published in Thursday's issue of the newspaper 'UKAZ, he said: What was decided at the Baghdad summit is good and useful because circumstances and challenges make it necessary for a summit to be held every year. He added: When it was agreed that the next summit will be held in Cairo, the choice was linked to many considerations, including treating the subject of the Arab League charter. He said it is no longer necessary to hold extraordinary summits.

The custodian of the two holy mosques stressed that the brothers in Syria and Iraq are up to the responsibility, and those who think that they are in a dispute which has reached a deadlock have misinterpreted the situation. He said: What happened and is happening between any two brothers is a difference over the means. Everyone agrees on the substance: There is not one Arab who is not aware of the importance of common action in defense of the destiny and interests of this motherland.

The king said that we in the Kingdom view with special interest the situation in Yemen. He said: Once again, I affirm that Yemen is of interest to us. We are happy for, and welcome and support the choices of its people and leadership. He went on to say: Time will confirm that the close relations between the Kingdom of Yemen are governed by history, geography, and great common denominators. Consequently, there is no place for anything but comprehensive cooperation and coordination, and there is no place for anything but complete linkage of aims and interests, interests that leave no opportunity for any kind of excesses and intrigue. He affirmed that a unified Yemen is an embodiment of Arab aspirations and is a sincere representation of our aspirations here in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The custodian of the two holy mosques added: When the Kingdom stands by the side of Yemen and the Yemenis, it is due to pride in Yemen, its land and history, the Yemeni man, and his ancestral line and loyalty.

With regard to the reports on Arab and, more precisely, Gulf efforts for some kind of mediation between the Kingdom and Iran, the custodian of the two holy mosques affirmed in his interview to 'UKAZ newspaper: The Kingdom supports all sincere efforts that would spare this nation suffering and discord.

He also said: As for Iran, in particular, we have not rejected the principle of improving the atmosphere with them and even so the elimination of all the causes of the current conflict.

With regard to the instability which will be witnessed by the oil market in case there is no commitment to the decision adopted at the latest OPEC meeting, King Fahd Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz said: Everyone should know that the time is now ripe for reaching a long term agreement which will guarantee maximum stability.

He expressed his optimism with regard to the future, saying: I anticipate that a new spirit will prevail in the forthcoming meetings.

He affirmed the commitment of the Kindom to the latest OPEC agreement and called on the other states to commit themselves to the agreements in order to avoid any possible negative consequences. [passage omitted]

The custodian of the two holy mosques said: Israel is not the end of the world, and the Israelis are convinced that peace and coexistence will create a climate that would threaten their policies or usurpation and expansion.

The king said he looks forward to the positive consequences of the meetings between the superpower leaders, U.S. President Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. He hoped the Palestinian issue was given sufficient attention during the two leaders' meeting.

He praised President Yasir 'Arafat, whom he described as having found the solutions for resolving the current problems. [passage omitted]

Islamic World League Expresses Concern on Kashmir

LD1306232190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Jun 90

[Text] Mecca, 13 June (SPA)—The Islamic World League has expressed its deep anxiety at the inability of the Indian government to solve the problem of Kashmir in accordance with UN resolutions in this respect. It blamed the Indian Government for the use of oppressive and inhumane measures against the Kashmir Muslim people and the violation of its sanctities with disregard to human rights and disrespect for the sentiments of Muslims in general.

The general secretariat of the Islamic World League appealed in a statement issued today by its secretary general, Dr. 'Abdallah 'Umar Nasif, to all the Arab and Islamic peoples, to intervene with the Indian Government in order to halt the attacks and terrorist operations being committed against the Kashmiri Muslims and to grant them total freedom for self-determination in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions issued in 1948 and 1949.

'UKAZ Condemns Shamir's 'Government of Madmen'

PM1306135390 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 9 Jun 90 p 7

[Editorial: "Israeli Government of Madmen and the Coming Danger"]

[Text] The pillars of the Zionist entity exchange jobs, but all policies remain fixed. They adhere to the idea of not specifying the Zionist entity's borders while continuing to pursue aggression and war and torpedo any peace efforts.

The policy of occupying Arab territories, expelling the Palestinians from their territory, and establishing the so-called "greater Israel" has been a fixed approach in the Zionist entity's policy since Palestine was usurped in 1948.

On the occasion of the agreement between the rightist parties and the Israeli religious parties to form the new government, the terrorist Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday announced that Jewish settlement would continue in Palestine and in all Arab territories, thus emphasizing that the enemy does not want peace but, rather, wants to continue to implement his schemes of terror.

Shamir's statements yesterday reflect the fact that disagreements over the formation of a government were merely deceptive theatrics designed to divert attention from the Zionist scheme aimed at achieving expansion at the expense of Arab territories.

Shamir's arrival as head of an extremist Israeli government of madmen will kindle the fires of war, especially as Shamir yesterday announced that his government would face the "risks of war."

The terrorist Shamir has renewed his adherence to his own so-called plan aimed at holding Israeli-style elections, rejecting any peace negotiations with the PLO.

With the exposure of the truth about the Zionist enemy and in view of his rejection of peace and his expansion of settlement at the expense of Arab territories, will the world adopt a spectator's attitude to that policy of aggression and terror?

Shamir's arrival as head of an extremist government will mean that more Palestinians will be expelled from their territories in order to replace them with Jews—a serious situation that must be confronted.

And we call on all the world's states to back the conspicuous and inalienable Arab rights and punish the Israeli enemy, who now poses a threat not only to the Arabs but to the world as a whole.

We also warn against the major dangers expected from the arrival of a new Israeli government of madmen which plays with fire, rejects any peace, and will implement a scheme of terror designed to kill more Palestinians.

United Arab Emirates

Yemeni Petroleum Minister Arrives With Letter

JN1006174890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1345 GMT 10 Jun 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 10 Jun(WAKH)—Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun, petroleum and mineral resources minister of the Republic of Yemen, and a delegation arrived here today.

Upon arrival, the minister said he has a letter from Lieutenant General President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of the Republic of Yemen to President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan al-Nuhayyan of the United Arab Emirates dealing with bilateral relations.

Received by Heir Apparent

JN1106113590 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 11 Jun 90

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, heir apparent and deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces, received in his office at noon today His Excellency Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun, petroleum and mineral resources minister of the Republic of Yemen. The Yemeni minister conveyed to his highess an oral message from 'Ali Salim al-Bid, deputy chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council, on developing the distinguished relations between the United Arab Emirates and the Republic of Yemen. Discussions during the meeting dealt with a number of issues of common interest.

The meeting was attended by His Excellency Muhammad Khalifah al-Kindi, minister of public works and housing, and His Excellency Muhammad Hatim al-Khawi, Yemeni ambassador to the country.

Yemen Arab Republic

Israeli Positions Reinforced in Wadi Al-'Arabah

JN1306124090 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Jun 90

[Text] Zionist occupation forces have stepped up their military patrols in the cease-fire positions with Jordan and Egypt. Reports arriving in Amman from the occupied territories said today that additional forces have been dispatched to and patrols reinforced in the Wadi al-'Arabah [Ha'Arava] areas south of occupied Palestine. This reveals the true intentions of the enemy to step up and reinforce Israeli forces there.

Petroleum Minister Returns From UAE Visit

JN1106191990 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Jun 90

[Text] Brother Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun, petroleum and mineral resources minister, returned from Abu Dhabi today after a visit to the United Arab Emirates, [UAE] where he conveyed a letter from brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, to his brother His Highness President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan al-Nuhayyan of the UAE.

Islamic Conference To Convene in Baghdad 16 Jun

JN1406115490 Baghdad INA in English 1045 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, June 14, INA—A three-day meeting of the International People Islamic Conference for supporting Iraq in the face of the Zionist-American conspiracy start here on Saturday. [16 Jun]

700 Islamic figures representing the Islamic organizations and societies in 70 countries take part in the conference.

Mr. 'Abdallah Fadil, minister of endowments and religious affairs, told INA that the conferees would discuss a working paper on working out a unified plan for countering challenges and plots targetting Iraq and the Arab nation.

Mr. Fadil added that the conference would be a great opportunity to express will of the Islamic nation and its firm stance in the face of conspiracies being hatched against Iraq and the Arab and Islamic nations.

General Amnesty for Kurds Extended Until 11 Jul

JN1006125890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 10 Jun 90

[Text] The Revolution Command Council [RCC] has decreed that the general amnesty offered to Iraqi Kurds who fled Iraqi territory and are residing abroad as provided for in Decree No. 144 issued on 14 March 1990, shall be extended until 11 July 1990. The decree reads as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The RCC. Decree No. 244. Date of Decree: 16 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1410 Hegira [corresponding to 9 June 1990 A.D].

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decided the following:

First, RCC Decree No. 144 issued on 14 March 1990 will remain valid until 11 July 1990.

Second, the competent ministers and agencies shall implement this decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman.

INA has learned that this extension will be the last extension of the abovementioned decree.

Minister Criticizes Turkey on Euphrates Issue

JN1106084690 Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 6 Jun 90 pp 14-15

[Interview with 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi, Iraqi oil minister and chairman of the Joint Iraqi-Turkish Committee, by 'Abd- al-Rasul Husayn in Baghdad; date not given]

[Text] The first half of last month, May, witnessed meetings of the Iraqi-Turkish Joint Committee, which was chaired on the Iraqi side by Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi, and on the Turkish side by the treasury minister [title as published]. The meetings coincided with the Turkish prime minister's visit to Iraq when he met with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, God protect him.

The Iraqi side paid great attention to the distribution of the Euphrates River water after clear neglect was observed by the Turkish side to implement the 1980 protocol among the three countries Turkey, Syria, and Iraq, which stipulated reaching agreement on sharing the Euphrates River water for a maximum period of three years.

ALIF BA' noticed that the Turkish media waged an unjust campaign against Iraq after the Turkish side returned home. This campaign coincided with the Zionist imperialist campaign against Iraq and the Arab nation. Out of its desire to place the true facts before its readers, ALIF BA' interviewed 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi, chairman of the Iraqi side to the Iraqi-Turkish Joint Committee.

We asked the minister: Could you please clarify the efforts made by Iraq since the start of the Euphrates water crisis to contain the damage caused by the scarcity of water to seven million Iraqis living in the Euphrates basin.

The minister said: The major point the Iraqi side was concerned about and wanted to be the main subject of discussion was the issue of the Euphrates waters. Here, I must concentrate on what happened during the months that preceeded the Joint Committee meetings.

As is well known, Iraq, Turkey, and Syria signed a protocol among them which affirmed that specialized sides in the three countries should reach agreement over the distribution of the Euphrates water for a period not exceeding two years. The protocol also added an extra year in addition to the two years, in case agreement should not be reached. In other words, a comprehensive agreement was supposed to have been reached in 1982 or 1983. It was noticed, however, regrettably, that the Turkish side was concentrating on implementing the projects it had already created in the upper Euphrates without showing any seriousness concerning the committee meetings, whether on the ministerial or technical level. As is also well known, Iraq, at that time, was preoccupied with driving back the Iranian aggression. It constantly reminded the Turkish side of the importance of this subject.

In 1987, Turkey and Syria signed a bilateral agreement which included setting the flow of water from Turkey to Syria at 500 cubic meters per second. The Iraqi side was not a party to these talks. We learned about them after quite some time from unofficial sources. This subject was brought up during Turgut Uzal's visit when he was prime minister in April 1988, when Iraq clarified its stand by objecting first to the amounts specified and second to the formulation, as this should have been a trilateral rather than bilateral agreement. The Iraqi side asked the Turkish side to review this subject.

It also asked that technical and ministerial meetings concerning this subject continue among the three countries. We have been following up this topic through the technical committees and the Iraqi-Turkish Joint Committee, which meets annually during the Turkish prime minister's visit to Iraq or the first deputy prime minister's visit to Turkey.

The water issue acquired special importance especially in the last months of 1989, when Turkey completed construction of the Ataturk Dam and in view of its decision to fill it with water within a timetable primarily based on Turkey's interest in filling the reservoir of the Ataturk Dam within the shortest possible period. Naturally, this would harm the interests of Syria and Iraq. Iraq then carried out direct contacts with Turkey followed by a visit by Nizar Hamdun, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, during which he raised the issue with the Turkish officials and requested that the Turkish plan be reconsidered.

As the Iraqi side noticed that the Turkish side paid no attention to the issue, I visited Turkey as the personal representative of the leader president to convey a personal message from his excellency to the Turkish president. We explained in detail how Iraq would be harmed if Turkey continues its program of blocking the Euphrates waters for a whole month to be followed by five years for filling the reservoir. During that period, barely 500 cubic meters will be released through the Turkish-Syrian border. We explained how seven million Iraqis living in the Euphrates basin will be harmed by such a move, not to mention the industrial and irrigation projects in the area.

Our request was specific. It was to cut the blocking period in light of the information and technical discussions held by experts from both countries, to increase the amount of water to be released later from 500 cubic meters to 700 per second, and to extend the period needed for filling the reservoir. We also requested that trilateral meetings be immediately held on the level of experts and ministers. We visited Turkey and met with the Turkish president and other concerned officials on 13 January 1990, when Turkey began blocking the flow of Euphrates water. We agreed that the technical committee begin its meetings in February and that the ministers of irrigation of the three countries meet late February. However, what happened was that Turkey maintained the blocking period for an entire month and the technical committee held an unfruitful meeting in Turkey due to the Turkish side's insistence on its stands. In addition, the Turkish side did not call for a meeting by the irrigation ministers.

In March, Isin Celebi, Turkish minister of treasury [title as received] and head of the Turkish side to the Iraqi-Turkish Joint Committee, visited Iraq and delivered a message from the Turkish president to leader President Saddam Husayn. We held discussions with Mr. Celebi on the water issue and affirmed the importance of holding a meeting by the irrigation ministers before the joint committee meetings. It was agreed to fix a date for the irrigation ministers' meeting late March. However, the Turkish side did not implement the agreement and did not call for a meeting. Prior to the date of the joint committee meeting, we summoned the Turkish ambassador in Baghdad on 12 April 1990 to whom we underscored the extreme importance the Iraqi side attaches to the need to discuss the water issue during the Turkish prime minister's visit to Iraq and during the joint committee meetings which will be held in the same period.

On 21 April, the first deputy prime minister summoned the Turkish ambassador in Baghdad and stressed the same issue to him—the Iraqi side wants the talks to focus on finding a formula to decide the water problem as soon as possible, particularly since the signs of shortage began to increase and affect Iraq. However, we were surprised because the Turkish delegation, which arrived in Baghdad, did not include among its members anyone specialized in irrigation and water even though we placed this issue on the agenda. The Turkish prime minister came to Baghdad accompanied by 200 officials and businessmen and none of them was specialized in water affairs. The Turkish side came—despite all Iraqi assertions—determined not to discuss the water issue. This seems to be an obstacle to developing bilateral relations. The Turkish technical delegation earlier affirmed that the water issue would be discussed by the Turkish prime minister.

All this shows—with deep regret—that the Turkish side was not seriously concerned over this subject, which we view as very important not only in the interest of Iraq but also due to its importance in the long run on regional stability and on removing all that can mar Iraqi-Turkish relations. Turkey's proposal to invite the Iraqi and Syrian irrigation ministers to visit in June 1990 made the Iraqi side underscore its stance clearly and frankly with regard to the method that can be adopted for distributing water now and on a short-term and long-term basis.

We hope that the Turkish officials will show seriousness toward this issue because 10 years have passed without reaching an agreement. In fact, there was no seriousness even in holding a meeting on this issue.

[Husayn] What prospects and areas of cooperation were underlined by the Iraqi-Turkish Joint Committee?

[Al-Jalabi] The Turkish prime minister paid a three-day visit to Iraq at the beginning of last month at the invitation of Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister. Talks held between the two countries, during the visit, focused on bilateral relations and issues of common interest. The Turkish prime minister was received by leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him. The Iraqi-Turkish Joint Committee held meetings until the Turkish prime minister arrived in Baghdad.

It is known that there are many areas of cooperation between Iraq and Turkey because of the historical and neighborly relations between the two countries and as a result of the concern of the leadership under the leader president to establish distinguished relations that take

into consideration the common interests of both sides in all fields. The meetings of the Joint Committee dealt with the trade, economic, financial, exchange of experts, transportation, communications, oil, industry, and electricity fields. All these issues were discussed and no obstacles worth mentioning appeared, particularly in the wake of the position adopted by Iraq to promote trade relations that were marred by a certain slowness after the Turkish Government decided to freeze the credit facilities granted to Turkish exporters.

Iraq believed and continues to believe that the credit facilities granted by Turkey are primarily in the interest of Turkish exporters and, consequently, in favor of promoting trade with Iraq. It is the Turkish side that defines the size of these facilities, but when these facilities were frozen, many of the companies and individuals in charge of exporting goods to Iraq were harmed.

An agreement was reached to reconsider these facilities so that $400 million would go to the exportation of goods to Iraq and another $400 million to cover the financing of projects being implemented in Iraq by Turkish companies.

[Husayn] What do you think of the tendentious media campaign launched by the Turkish press at the conclusion of the joint committee meetings?

[Al-Jalabi] Although we adopt a quiet method in discussing the subject pending the next meeting by the irrigation ministers, we were surprised that after the return of the Turkish delegation to the joint committee meeting a large-scale media campaign was unleashed. The least I can say about this campaign is that it was tendentious and aimed at harming Iraqi-Turkish relations. This campaign serves only those who seek to harm these relations.

Iraq's position was clear at all meetings held on all levels. The Iraqi position was explained very honestly, clearly, and frankly. We regretted the lack of seriousness we noted over the past 10 years on the subject of the Euphrates waters. What the Turkish newspapers write and what the Turkish news media raise will not at all be in the interest of developing bilateral relations.

[Husayn] What about the other topics discussed by the joint committee?

[Al-Jalabi] The other topics discussed by the joint committee were tackled in a satisfactory manner. Several problems obstructing bilateral cooperation were resolved. There were reciprocal proposals to develop cooperation in all economic and trade areas and to link Iraq and Turkey with a railroad as well as other forms of fruitful cooperation. We believe there are large prospects for the promotion of cooperation within the next few years. Accordingly, we particularly look forward to resolving the issue of dividing the Euphrates waters among Iraq, Turkey, and Syria so that there would be a broader chance to promote bilateral relations and establish joint contacts without allowing the subject of water to negatively reflect on these relations, especially since the subject of the flow of water is governed by international laws and norms and is not considered a favor done by one state to another, as some writers in Turkey are trying to depict, and as if Turkey was donating this water. We trust and hope that the Turkish officials will view such topics within their right broad dimensions.

I also hope that the irrigation ministers' meetings in Ankara on the 26th of this month will be fruitful and positive and pave the way for a comprehensive agreement on sharing the Euphrates waters. We hope the Turkish and Syrian preparations are both serious and good.

Shamir Sends Message to Mubarak, Seeks Summit

JN1406205590 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] Amid the tension overshadowing the Middle East since the formation of Yitzhaq Shamir's rightist government, following strong Arab reaction suspecting the intentions of Shamir's new government, and in the wake of the strong words U.S. Secretary of State James Baker addressed to Israeli officials yesterday, Yitzhaq Shamir tried to open a window on Egypt apparently in a bid to reassure the Egyptians, Arabs, and Americans. Today, the Israeli prime minister sent a message to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak emphasizing his readiness to turn a new page in relations with Egypt and to discuss the future of peace between Israel and the Arabs, as well as his desire to hold a summit. Mustafa Bakri, our correspondent in Cairo, reports on the message's contents:

[Bakri] In his message, Shamir stressed that his government attaches special importance to Israeli security through the search for the real components of peace. He said his country will not be the first to attack any Arab country, unless it senses its security is endangered. Shamir called for opening a new chapter in relations with Egypt and said it was necessary to hold periodic meetings between officials from both countries to discuss the hurdles obstructing these relations. In his message, Shamir expressed his readiness to discuss the future of peace between the Arabs and Israel at a meeting to be attended by the two foreign ministers and with the participation of the U.S. secretary of state, provided the U.S. Administration does not present any ideas that might obstruct these talks. Shamir repeated his interest in holding a summit meeting with the Egyptian president to discuss all these ideas.

It will be recalled that Shamir's message came after U.S. intervention, in which the United States warned Israel through its ambassador in Tel Aviv of the dangers of irresponsible statements reportedly made by a senior Israeli Army Staff official.

Jerusalem Denies Summit Call

TA1506075090 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir wants to make a new start in relations with Egypt and wants the two to act together to advance the peace process. This is what Shamir wrote in a letter to Egypt's President Husni Mubarak. Writing a letter to his counterpart James Baker, Foreign Minister David Levi stressed Israel's willingness to advance the peace process, but did not mention the Cairo meeting as a station along the way. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman has the details:

[Gutman] Jerusalem political sources termed the letter to Mubarak a letter of goodwill, sent on the occasion of the establishment of the new government. In his letter, Prime Minister Shamir stressed Israel's willingness to advance the peace process, but did not detail the ways to do so. The prime minister devoted a large part of his note to Mubarak to Israeli-Egyptian relations. Shamir asks Mubarak to make a new start in relations, mentioning a desire to improve Israel's relations with the various Arab countries.

Last night Radio Monte Carlo reported that the prime minister had asked for a meeting with President Mubarak, but no official confirmation of that was obtained from Jerusalem. It will be stressed here that, ever since Mubarak's recent refusal to meet with him, Shamir has stopped asking for a meeting.

Jerusalem also denied reports alleging that the prime minister mentioned the need to convene a tripartite foreign ministers meeting.

Foreign Minister David Levi sent a letter to his U.S. counterpart, James Baker, in reply to the letter of congratulations he had received from Baker. In his letter, Levi notes Israel's commitment to the advancement of the Middle East peace process. Both the foreign minister and the prime minister do not mention the steps Israel intends to take to advance the peace process. There is also no mention of the Cairo meeting.

Israel has launched a diplomatic campaign in all directions, the primary goals being deflecting U.S. pressure and bringing about meetings with the heads of the Washington and Cairo administrations. At this stage, however, there is no mention of tactics, and a general declaration of intent is considered sufficient.

Minister Levi Hospitalized for Chest Pains

TA1506043390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi was hospitalized last night in the intensive care unit of Ha'emeq Hospital in 'Afula. He was taken to the hospital by family members after complaining of chest pains while in his home in Bet She'an. A hospital official told the Voice of Israel that the foreign minister is in good condition and that he will stay in the hospital for a couple of days for tests. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 15 June quotes hospital doctors as saying that "up to now, no signs of a heart attack have been diagnosed."]

In 'Stable' Condition

TA1506103690 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Report by Tzvi Rimon]

[Excerpt] How is Foreign Minister David Levi doing? We contacted the 'Emeq Central Hospital a few minutes ago and asked to talk to Dr. Udi Kantor, the deputy director of the hospital. We asked him, obviously, how the foreign minister was feeling.

[Begin recording] [Kantor] He continues to be doing well. He is in stable condition and has recovered well. We are hoping that he will continue to recover at this pace.

[Rimon] Dr. Kantor, do you know when the foreign minister will be discharged?

[Kantor] We do not have a final estimate right now. We will send him home as soon as we can.

[Rimon] Can you let us know what you have discovered, and how Mr. David Levi is doing?

[Kantor] At this stage we are continuing the observation. We have discovered nothing unusual so far, and we hope that we will find nothing extraordinary, either. [passage omitted]

Ben-Aharon, Shamir Discuss Policy on U.S.

TA1506083590 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Jun 90 pp 1, 18

[Report on interviews with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by diplomatic correspondent David Makovsky in Jerusalem on 14 June]

[Excerpts] The U.S. should not expect a positive reply to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's four-month-old question about Israel's willingness to participate in a Cairo-based Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, the director-general of the Prime Minister's Office told THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday.

Yosi Ben-Aharon refused to say that Israel is scuttling Baker's plan for Cairo-based talks, and said Israel looked forward to a "close, intimate dialogue with the U.S."

Two days ago, Baker said the U.S. would cease efforts to get peace talks going unless the new Israeli government gave a reply on its participation in such talks. Baker even said that the new government should phone the White House when it becomes serious about advancing peace. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who conducted the second half of a two-part interview with THE POST yesterday, refused to react to Baker's statement.

Ben-Aharon said: "What the administration wants to hear is a 'yes, yes' answer to a number of questions that would have us negotiate with the PLO appointees. This would subsequently be leading to a process with the PLO, and the accompanying danger of a Palestinian state."

The U.S. has always said it does not view the proposed Cairo negotiations, which were approved with reservations by the Israeli inner cabinet last November, as leading to Israeli-PLO talks.

It is widely believed that the focus of the Washington-Jerusalem tension this week is precisely this issue of the Cairo talks. Israel believes that concentrating U.S.-Israel diplomacy on this point distorted the Israeli peace initiative of May 14, 1989, and therefore it should be eliminated. Baker, alluding to the intensive U.S.-Israeli consultations from September to March, said on Wednesday that he is awaiting an answer to the formula that he and then-foreign minister Moshe Arens worked out on February 23 this year relating to Palestinian eligibility to the Cairo talks. [passage omitted]

In yesterday's interview, Shamir rejected outright assessments insisting that the policy of the new government has hardened. He said his positions are consistent with his peace initiative of 13 months ago, and did not react to suggestions that he is rejecting diplomatic moves made since May 14, 1989.

Shamir said yesterday that Palestinians must agree to conduct negotiations with Israel solely on the question of West Bank elections and issues relating to autonomy before Israel would enter such talks. This, he said, is consistent with the Camp David accords, which call for final status of the territories to be worked out three to five years after the autonomy begins.

Israel will not discuss final-status issues now, Shamir told THE POST. "We will not talk with them about a permanent solution. It is not necessary, it could be harmful. They have to accept this [Camp David] framework. If they do not accept this framework, for instance, if they want to discuss a Palestinian state, there is no need to meet with them. They have to agree to this in advance."

Shamir also repeated the assertion he made to THE POST earlier this week, that talks with the Palestinians should be conducted alongside talks with Arab states, saying this is also part of the May 14 peace initiative. "I wouldn't say talks with the Palestinians have to be conditional on talks with Arab states, but I think all this effort to implement our initiative has to be done simultaneously, more or less, in both directions. [Talks] have to be conducted in both directions if they really want peace."

In implied criticism of the Cairo-based Israeli-Palestinian talks, Shamir said, "There cannot be a one-track effort. It will not bring the desired results." The U.S. has said talks with other Arab states are not a realistic expectation at this time.

Avi Pazner, the Prime Minister's Adviser on Communications, indicated he was surprised that the administration has not provided the new Israeli government with a grace period before issuing such attacks.

Ben-Aharon on U.S. Reaction to New Government

TA1506065090 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Telephone interview with Yosef Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good morning, sir.

[Ben-Aharon] Good morning.

[Friedman] Have you or anyone else called the number Baker gave: 456-1414?

[Ben-Aharon] This may come as a surprise to you, but we are in constant contact. I believe that what he wanted was to express some frustration, and to a certain degree this frustration is understandable. In my opinion, we are now paying the price of the national unity government. The Washington administration has for six years and Secretary of State Baker has for the last year been hearing two voices coming from the State of Israel. The voice that appealed to them the most was that of our former partner in the government. They built the continuation of the peace process according to the scenario and framework prepared in Washington.

What they now see appears to them to be a setback. This is no setback. What we are trying to do is to return to the political initiative and to implement it in the way intended by the people who wrote and conceived it, headed by Prime Minister Shamir. With your permission, I would like to give two examples: One concerns the issue of the four clauses of the initiative. One of those clauses speaks of improving our relations with the Arab countries. Our former partners in the government signaled to Washington that this matter should not be taken seriously, and even said so openly. We, including the prime minister, did the contrary. We treated this issue very seriously. Shamir appealed to the heads of European countries asking them to help us improve relations with the Arab states, because it is impossible to advance an agreement with our close neighbors—the Arabs in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip—when the Arab countries continue to maintain active and aggressive hostility toward us.

[Dan] Mr. Ben-Aharon, the question is, where exactly should the political dialogue begin now? We have heard Baker say that he is still waiting for replies to his questions. At the same time, at least one minister here upset Baker by saying that the Americans themselves have dropped the Baker questions. Where are we supposed to start?

[Ben-Aharon] We are supposed to begin at the beginning. This means we should not go back, but must put the process on a track that will lead us to an agreement but not to negotiations with a delegation composed by the PLO, which would bring us up against the threat of a Palestinian state. That is all.

[Friedman] The way the Americans see it, the question on the agenda is: Are Baker's questions still relevant? Baker said two days ago: If the attitude is that my questions are no longer relevant, there won't be any dialogue and there won't be any peace. Is this going to be the attitude?

[Ben-Aharon] The issue is not the recent questions of Secretary of State Baker.

[Dan] It is as far as the Americans are concerned.

[Ben-Aharon] No. I think that the Americans are well aware of the fact that if one government fell over the need to reply to those specific questions, it is inconceivable that they should return to the very same point and present the same questions to the new government. What they are doing is expressing their frustration. The other thing is that they see that we are taking the issue of the U.S.-PLO dialogue very seriously. This is contrary to the impression they were given by the previous national unity government, which had components in it that told the Americans: We are in favor of this dialogue, in contradiction to the government policy and guidelines.

[Friedman] Mr. Ben-Aharon, what was the point of remarks made by the prime minister yesterday, of all times, who further aggravated the relations by claiming in an interview to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL that the United States is to a large extent responsible for the war rhetoric of the Arabs against Israel?

[Ben-Aharon] I do not know who made these remarks. All I can say is that the U.S.-PLO dialogue did not contribute to greater stability, but rather encouraged those in the Arab Middle East who believe that if the United States is talking to the PLO—which to them is the alternative to the State of Israel—they have succeeded in driving a wedge between the United States and Israel. Now we are trying to straighten things out. Naturally, this is followed by certain shocks, thunderbolts, and lightning. Nevertheless, it was not we who contributed to the deterioration. This is a matter of life and death for us; for the United States this is merely one topic on a long list of foreign relations issues.

[Friedman] All that is left to be done now is to convince the Americans that this is the reality.

[Ben-Aharon] Certainly. That is why we are appealing to the Americans and saying: Let us sit down and find the right track...

[Dan, interrupting] Such an appeal was made by Prime Minister Shamir to Bush, and it seems that Bush is in no hurry to hold such a meeting.

[Ben-Aharon] I suggest that we not rush to conclusions. I can tell you that a U.S. willingness does exist. The reason is simple: The United States wishes to make peace between Israel and the Arab countries. There will be no peace without Israel. Without Israel's readiness to take part in the process, there will certainly be no peace. Without an Israel that is stable and feels strong enough to advance a process, nothing will move.

[Dan] Do you see signs of an imminent meeting between Bush and Shamir?

[Ben-Aharon] I certainly see high-level meetings between the heads of both regimes.

[Friedman] One them could even be you. Yosef Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, thank you very much.

[Ben-Aharon] Thank you, and shalom.

Shamir Interviewed on New Government, Region

TA1506095390 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Jun 90 pp 5, 7

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by diplomatic correspondent David Makovsky in Jerusalem on 12 June]

[Text] Q: How will this government act differently from the previous one vis-a-vis various issues, such as the intifada? Will there be new settlements in the territories? Will it strengthen the existing ones?

A: Generally speaking, the overall approach will be the same. As far as the intifada is concerned, there may be more emphasis on protecting the yishuvim [settlements] in Judaea and Samaria, because the population there is suffering. It's true that the army makes every possible effort to prevent this suffering but the new government may increase efforts in this direction. A wave of new settlements is not anticipated. Everything that was stated in the basic guidelines of the last national unity government will more or less apply to this government. The emphasis will be on the...strengthening of the now-existing settlements. There must be some development; no settlements can mark time. There is no one who now believes that preference should be given to new settlements.

Q: There are those in Israel and in the region who say if there is no progress towards peace in the Middle East, the situation will deteriorate into war. Do you agree?

A: Such calls in the Arab world are cyclical. After an interval of relative quiet, voices of war and aggression again begin to be heard in the Arab world. This time it's Iraq, after it has become free of the burden of its war with Iran, in which it sees itself a victor. They have returned to their basic line, after being dormant for the eight years in which they were fighting Iran. In addition, particular attention must be paid to the fact that the aggressive intentions—their aggressive thoughts and intentions towards Israel—begin to surface in the Arab world as soon as they see cracks or breaches in the wall of friendship between Israel and the United States.

If one can characterize the 1980s in the Middle East as years of a certain measure of moderation, at least as far as tactics are concerned, it is because this period was characterized by strong progress in the friendship and cooperation between the two countries. It is only natural, therefore, that the Arabs convince themselves that the United States is backing Israel, and the liquidation of Israel is an absurd notion. They never say that this is because of Israel's power—they would never admit that—but because the strongest superpower in the world is behind Israel.

Having this viewpoint, when they see any sort of misunderstanding between Israel and the U.S., they try to exaggerate it and present it as a serious dispute, and that's when hopes spring to life that the U.S. will not support Israel. There's new hope for the success of their aggression against Israel. That's a fact. I would say, therefore, to international circles, mainly in the U.S., that giving emphasis to any distancing between Israel and the United States (even if it's for appearance's sake) almost automatically generates dangerous tension in the Middle East.

The Arabs, including the PLO as I said before, are also being encouraged by Europe's position which has with time, I would say, become both more hostile towards Israel's positions; and this encourages hostile trends as well. There are those in the Arab world who believe they can today take the liberty of attacking Israel, without any outside power intervening. I don't believe that this has any connection with what is called the peace process, because the extremism that I mentioned actually prevents any chance for peace negotiations between Israel and the Arab world to reach any realistic solution. The Arabs' predisposition to exaggerate also leads to mounting Arab demands. Nowadays, when anyone in the Arab world speaks about negotiations between Israel and the Arab countries, he no longer has in mind the Camp David Accords. What he's thinking about is a Palestinian state.

What Israel can and wants to do for promoting the peace process does not transcend the Camp David Accords. Till now, this framework has been the binding one. It obligates us and we believe it can be realized.

Q: You were talking about extremism in the Arab world. What about Jordan?

A: The same holds true. Jordan has its own specific problems, causing it to be ever weaker, and when the Jordanian government gets weaker, it seeks help from the Arab states, today mainly from Iraq. Its arguments and requests for aid centre around fear or apprehensions about being attacked by Israel. Jordan's spokesmen say to Saudi Arabia and to Iraq that Jordan is on the front line in the fight with Israel. That is Jordan's argument for soliciting funds. That is why it should be helped. In order to reinforce this argument, it is necessary for Jordan to be more and more aggressive.

Q: What will Israel do if Jordan finds itself in a situation where its survival is at risk?

A: We have no aggressive intentions towards Jordan. We sometimes find it difficult to believe that all this talk in Jordan about Israel cherishing a dream of attacking Jordan and of liquidating the Kingdom of Jordan. We find it hard to believe that those who say so in Jordan believe what they say. Maybe, it's an obsession. Perhaps they are saying so to derive some benefit, as I said before, and on the basis of such talk obtain more aid. But they have absolutely no real reason to be afraid of Israel. Israel is far removed from nurturing any thoughts of attacking any Arab country even the most hostile. There's no need to do that. We want to live in peace.

Q: A second source of concern in the Arab world is Gorbachev's warning last week, concerning the settlement of Soviet immigrants in the territories. I know you have often reiterated that there is no policy of settling immigrants in the territories and less than one per cent have chosen to live there. But if the life of up to a million Jews is in the balance, perhaps it would be best to say that those few people who settle in the territories will not be subsidized.

A: We know that this is only an excuse. To the contrary, some of the Arab countries are actually being frank when they state that it is immigration itself which creates the danger of war in the region. And why is this so? Is this because of the immigrants settling in the territories? We believe that if the Soviet Union is indeed interested in peace in the region, it should tell the Arab states: stop these artificial outcries, the hysteria that you generate by declaring that immigration leads to war. What kind of nonsense is that? Is the fact that a few hundred people are settling in the territories a cause for war? Why should we make such a declaration? No one would believe us in any event, even if we did make such a declaration. Everyone knows the truth of the matter. There is a Soviet mission in Israel. Any one of its members can check for himself whether Soviet Jews are going there. We can even facilitate their checking this out, if they are interested.

But the Arabs are indeed afraid of Jewish immigration. The question is: should the Soviet Union help them in their anti-immigration machinations? What is the Soviets' interest in fighting against immigration? It's just to the contrary. The Soviet Union's understanding, and assistance, can win it many friends here and abroad.

Q: So are you saying the Arabs are justified in their fear of immigration?

A: They're right from their point of view. Whoever seeks to get rid of the Jewish reality in the Middle East has grounds for being opposed to immigration, because this immigration is Zionism's true victory, and all that Israel signifies. I understand their fears. But immigration will not hurt them, nor harm their interests. Immigration will strengthen Israel, and a strong Israel will bring greater stability and security to the region. They have nothing to fear. But those who do not want a stronger Israel, and are toying with the illusion that they can liquidate Israel, it is they who are opposed to immigration. That is why I ask myself whether it is possible to talk about peace with those who are dead set against immigration. For us, opposing immigration is tantamount to opposing our very existence.

I am surprised that in Europe and in the U.S. (nothing is being done) to clarify this to the Arabs. They want to appear as "moderates." Where do you see Arab moderation? Their battle against immigration attests to unassailable extremism in their attitude toward Israel. Is this what you call moderation? Whoever is opposed to immigration now, is also opposed to having the previous immigrants live here. I don't understand why various groups abroad do not express their revulsion and categorically reject this inhuman, illiberal and undemocratic form of Arab warfare.

Where is the press that would be a champion of freedom and humanity?

Where is the media in Europe and America? Why don't they launch a strong attack against this—what I would even term barbaric—warfare?

Q: Some claim that after this wave of immigration, Israel won't be interested in making peace with the Palestinians.

A: Today everyone knows that a weak Israel won't come to any settlement with them. Only a strong and confident Israel will be able to make peace agreements with the Arab world.

Q: Why did you halt the peace process in March? Were you opposed to the Baker-Arens formulation for the participation of a Palestinian delegation in the Cairo talks? Did you suspect there would be covert PLO participation?

A: What is the peace process? If we're talking about implementing our peace initiative of May 14, 1989, then we should be consulted. It's not that I'm zealous about our copyright. We, the formulator of this plan, wish to take a course in which we believe. I would say, therefore, this plan—this initiative—is a good one. However, there must be ongoing and serious consultations between us and the U.S. regarding its implementation. These consultations need not include each individual step, but there must be general agreement on a series of steps. Only such mutual understanding can prepare the ground for cooperation. I understand America's desire to help us implement the peace initiative. I am grateful to them and at the same time I understand that they are interested in maintaining good relations with the Arab world. But they can't take these steps (the Cairo talks) without having a full understanding with Israel.

Q: But aren't you ignoring the fact that from September 1989 to March 1990 there were intensive, daily consultations between the U.S. and Israel on an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo?

A: This process is so complex and difficult, that one sometimes must stop and take time out together to think how to proceed. For as you know negotiations for resolving territorial conflicts, or others, between various countries take years. You can take examples from the whole world. It can't go along at what is known as an "American tempo." Here we sometimes have to fortify ourselves with patience.

Q: President George Bush said last week that he wants to get an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue rolling. Don't you want to mend your relations with him and his administration? If so, what do you propose to tell him?

A: I am interested in doing so, I have something to say, and I certainly do want to advance the peace process. But

I am interested in reaching an agreement. After all, I have been telling the Americans not to forget that it's our initiative. But I want them to understand our intentions, and I want to make it clear that a dialogue between Israel and Arab representatives of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza cannot succeed without prior agreement between the parties that the goal is to advance within the framework of the Camp David Accords—that is, autonomy.

There's nothing to discuss with those among the Palestinian-Arabs who are opposed to autonomy. There's nothing to discuss with them. That's to begin with. Second, we must take into consideration that Israel will not talk with the PLO, because among other reasons they are opposed to autonomy and the Camp David agreement. Third, but no less important: it is impossible to conceive that we could reach any sort of serious understanding between us and the Palestinian sector without further understanding and progress in the relations between Israel and the Arab states.

After all, peace is diametrically opposed to war. And if one talks about removing the danger of war, the reference is first and foremost to the Arab countries. For who can wage war? States with armies and weapons. All these terrorist organizations are incapable of waging war. That is why our actions must be simultaneously directed—as set forth in our peace initiative—towards dealing with the Arab states and improving our relations with them, as well as at dealing with our local conflict, including the differences of opinion and interest between us and the Arab population of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. This must be a comprehensive effort that encompasses all these spheres in the Arab world.

Q: As a result of all the coalition machinations of the last few months, the public is becoming more and more alienated towards the government. Just recently some 500,000 citizens signed a petition...

A: And what if they signed!

Q: ...calling for a change in the system of government. You always say that in drafting a new system of government, changes have to be made judiciously. A presidential commission appointed by the Knesset could accomplish this and it would be done within the three-month period agreed upon in the coalition agreement. Or do you think that the Knesset which stands to benefit from the present system, could truly reform it?

A: There's a fundamental issue involved. Half a million or more people are convinced that something has to be changed. But it's not clear to these people what has to be changed in the system of government, nor how. Neither is it obvious to them what the character of this changed system should be.

There are those who grasp at formulas such as direct elections, because there are no other proposals. I say it should be dealt with within the parliamentary system. It's wrong to assume that the Knesset includes members who are not interested in promoting these changes...I'm convinced that there is a need for changes but the only way to get this done is through the Knesset. If the present Knesset is incapable of carrying this out, there's another alternative: to declare new elections. And what if there are elections in two years' time? After all, two years isn't eternity. Elections will be held, and if the public really wants those (to implement) ideas for which it demonstrated, this can find expression in their votes.

Q: You are now leading the fifth government within the past seven years. Doesn't this signify instability?

A: The president thinks there have been too many governments. But not all these governments were the result of political crises. For example, Begin quit for strictly personal reasons...One (1986) was due to the rotation agreement and another (1988) was the result of regular elections. Actually only two governments were due to other reasons.

Levi on U.S. Dialogue, Foreign Policy Plans

TA1506112490 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 15 Jun 90 p B1

[Interview with David Levi, foreign minister and deputy prime minister, by Ilan Bachar "this week, upon entering office"; place not given]

[Text] [Bachar] You are Israel's foreign minister. Does this mean that the government will say "no" to Baker's questions?

[Levi] It is necessary to explain to the United States that a political process is crucial for us and cannot stand merely on a yes or no to one specific question. Something has happened. The previous government fell and another came in its stead. One must not overlook two fundamental points supported by the U.S. Administration: negation of a Palestinian state and not forcing Israel to talk to the PLO. We must seal these points in an understanding with the United States, and then they will serve as the basis for the next steps in the peace process.

[Bachar] In that case, if the United States again declares its commitment to these points, could the peace process pick up where it left off?

[Levi] The answer to Baker is not negative, but one should remember that the engine has gotten off the track—in part because of the way Baker's questions were presented, and in part because the government fell. Furthermore, the assurances the Inner Cabinet sought from the United States at the time remained unanswered. You cannot then come and say: We will now put the engine back on the track right at the point where it was derailed, and try to make it move at full speed even though there are no railroad tracks. I know what will happen if we do that: The train will overturn. It is necessary to renew the process not by presenting a question and demanding a response, but by discussing these issues in an effort to revive U.S.-Israeli coordination without stepping on mines. Thus, it is inconceivable

that the PLO would appoint representatives for talks between us and the Palestinians.

[Bachar] How will you rehabilitate relations with the United States?

[Levi] There is no crisis, but a hitch that must be overcome by way of an honest clarification of our position.

[Bachar] They say every hawk who reaches the Foreign Ministry undergoes a change and turns more moderate.

[Levi] I know this theory, but as a member of the government and the Inner Cabinet, nothing, including the fine nuances, is a novelty to me. The position I will take on the central issues will be such as to not highlight differences. Rather, the position will attempt to overcome differences without denying their existence on the one hand, and without affecting substance on the other. I will strive to achieve mutual trust. This is actually the real test.

[Bachar] How will you deal with promoting our relations with the USSR and the East European countries?

[Levi] We will nurture whatever has already begun. In parallel, the issue of resuming diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union should be at the focus of activity in this sphere. We are aware of dramatic developments throughout East Europe, and some of the countries there have renewed their ties with us. It is inconceivable that the Soviet Union should be the only country with which we do not have diplomatic relations.

[Bachar] I cannot end this interview without asking you about your difficulties in English.

[Levi] Several elements have fixated on this issue, turning the English language into the main issue. I do not think this is the case. On the whole, dealing with this issue is unnecessary. I will surprise you yet where this is concerned. I will surprise you.

Milo on Improving U.S. Ties, Advancing Peace

TA1506081290 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1400 GMT 12 Jun 90

[Interview with Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo, in the Jerusalem studio, by Dan Shilon on the "'Erev Hadash" program—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Shilon] Before we address your immediate jurisdiction, the Police Affairs Ministry, let me ask you this: You are also a Cabinet member, and you will have to look straight into the eyes of our best friend, the United States, which has been voicing very disharmonious melodies regarding true friendship. How will you do that?

[Milo] One should bear in mind that the Israeli Government that signed a strategic cooperation agreement and a free trade zone agreement with the United States was a Likud government, a narrow-based government headed by Yitzhaq Shamir. I believe that ties with the United States can be tightened and improved, and that we can certainly prevent a deterioration in relations. It is necessary to act wisely, conduct the appropriate policy, and also take measures—and by that I mean also in political affairs—that will serve Israel's goals and security, and will simultaneously improve relations with the United States in terms of our two countries' mutual desire to promote the regional peace process.

[Shilon] More specifically, with your permission, the current issue on the agenda is the response to Baker: Are we or are we not going to Cairo? What would you say now?

[Milo] It seems to me that the issue of a response to Baker is no longer topical, because to the best of my knowledge the Americans themselves have already struck this question off the agenda. Ways to promote the peace process must be examined. We should find ways to conduct talks with Palestinian elements with whom we would like to make progress in the peace moves—not the PLO. I believe the United States will soon realize that it made a mistake regarding its dialogue with the PLO, and in fact some people have already voiced their opinion that this stand should be changed and that the intention is to forgo these ties, the dialogue with the PLO. I therefore believe there is a real chance to make progress in the peace process and reach understandings with the United States on a basis mutually acceptable to both of us. [passage omitted]

Editorial Urges U.S. To Continue PLO Dialogue

TA1406181690 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 14 Jun 90 p 7

[Editorial: "The U.S. Administration...and the Required Pragmatism!!"]

[Text] One and a half years after the beginning of dialogue between the U.S. Administration and the PLO, numerous voices are rising inside the Senate and House of Representatives in Washington, as well as from a considerable number of American Jewish organizations, calling for a halt to this dialogue.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker responded to these calls, saying: We are studying the issue in all its aspects, and we will not adopt hasty decisions as a result of pressure. We are still trying to launch the peace process in the region. We believe Baker is saying that the launching of the dialogue was basically an acknowledgment by the administration of former President Ronald Reagan that PLO participation in the peace process is essential for success.

The U.S.-Palestinian dialogue was launched in the wake of the resolutions of the Palestine National Council which convened in Algeria in November 1988, and in the wake of the address by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at the UN General Assembly meeting in Geneva at the end of 1988. The main

objective of the dialogue was represented in the search for ways to launch the peace process in the region.

Despite the fact that the U.S. Administration has used the dialogue with the PLO to deliver sermons and lectures, empty the dialogue of any content, and maintain it at a low level, political pragmatism dictates that the dialogue be preserved and upgraded, and that the U.S. Administration address it with seriousness.

The U.S. Administration is aware of the developments in the region, the rapid events, the arms race, and the possession of the weapons of destruction and annihilation—the same weapons that are being accumulated daily in the region in readiness for the moment when the failure of the peace option is officially announced.

If President George Bush decides on halting the dialogue with the PLO, it will be tantamount to giving the green light to the forces which have stood and are still standing against peace. These forces will use means that are likely to push the region and its nations toward the cycle of violence and counterviolence.

Hence, Washington should not resist the international tendencies that call for laying the firm foundation of peace in the region. Washington should join these efforts actively and practically, particularly since it is aware that the Arab world, including the PLO, has taken large strides for the sake of peace.

In the final analysis, regardless of the growing obstacles on the road to prosperity and peace in the region, the option is for the Middle East region to enter the new international era based on the principle of rejecting the supremacy of force and the impairment of the rights of nations on one hand, and reinforcing the principles of cooperation, mutual respect, and peace on the other.

Paper Warns Against Misinterpreting Baker Remarks

JN1506100990 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 15 Jun 90 p 1

[Editorial: "The Angry Tone and Lost Credibility"]

[Text] Despite the fact that the remarks made by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker the day before yesterday had a sharp tone and blamed Israel for hampering the peace process in the region, and despite the fact that these statements merit interest, we should nevertheless not exaggerate the assessment of their value, just as we should not pin too many unrealistic hopes on them. This is because what Baker said does not even faintly suggest that Washington is willing to translate this sharp tone into action that would push Israel to stop hindering the peace process. Therefore, the statements themselves do not suggest a prelude to a balanced U.S. policy in the region that is any different from the traditional U.S. policy which lavishes Israel with all the aid it needs. In light of this view, we say that the significance does not lie in a sharp or angry tone used in one statement or another. What is important is to take concrete action which would urge the Israeli aggressors to review their belligerent practices and push them to accept the just and comprehensive peace option. We say that it is difficult to derive a specific meaning from Baker's statements when we compare them to the action taken by his administration a few days ago by using the veto to protect Israel from the international community's condemnation and prevent the dispatch of a UN Security Council fact-finding mission to the occupied territories.

Therefore, it becomes very clear that angry expressions alone are not an alternative to lost credibility. The peace process cannot benefit from words that are not backed by serious actions. Furthermore, one could say that contradictory words and actions could undermine genuine opportunities to attain the desired peace.

In conclusion, we say that the latest statements by James Baker are not enough to activate the peace process in the region, just as they are not enough to retrieve the lost U.S. credibility. The Arabs, in any case, must hasten to strengthen their personal power and develop their pan-Arab action in a way that urges Washington to join the rest of the international community's stance, which calls for an international conference. We should also bear in mind that a strong Arab reality is what could transfer the peace process from the stage of statements to the stage of practical actions. It could also urge the Israeli aggressors to review their accounts. Thus, an Arab reality capable of confronting all possibilities would be the real guarantee—not only to activate the peace process, but also to obtain positive results from this process represented by the Palestinian people's retrieval of their usurped land and national rights, in addition to ending the threats and aggressive Israeli practices in the region.

Editorial Says Israel Pushing Region Toward War

JN1306121090 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Jun 90 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "Shamir Is Beating the War Drums"]

[Text] During his meeting with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Nikolay Petrovskiy, his Majesty King Husayn explained that the current situation in the Middle East entails many dangers and that events in this part of the world are deteriorating, causing great concern and moving toward the brink of a serious confrontation.

One of the main factors of instability in the Middle East at this stage is the large-scale Jewish immigration from the Soviet Union under the slogan of human rights and in the name of freedom of living and movement, without any consideration to the harm caused to the rights of others, including Arabs and Palestinians, whose homeland and future generations are being threatened.

What makes this immigration more dangerous is that it comes amid a growing Israeli trend to the right and toward extremism, as indicated by the makeup of the new Israeli Government, which epitomizes the Zionists' deep-rooted aspirations of aggression, annexation, expansion, and colonialism, as well as their deep-rooted hostile sentiments toward justice, freedom, and peace.

It is enough to look into Yitzhaq Shamir's recent statements about "black clouds" accumulating over the region in order to hear the war drums that were beaten strongly on the eve of the formation of the rightist and radical Israeli Government, which includes the advocates of killing, expulsion, crushing, annihilation, and other similar racist actions, which have been abandoned even by the racists of South Africa.

The declared Israeli trend to step up and expand the settlement process to cover all parts of occupied Palestine, as well as the current talk inside Israel about war and preparations for war, will quickly push the Middle East, with all its mass destruction weapons, toward the furnace of a destructive confrontation. This will happen, unless the whole world, East and West, cooperates to prevent these war advocates from playing with the powder keg in the Middle East so as not to expose world security and peace to serious dangers, whose possible repercussions even on the neighboring European countries cannot be predicted.

Government Source on Vatican Plan for Reform

NC1406174090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] Concerning the Vatican initiative being promoted by Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente, a government source has disclosed to our radio that the papal nuncio's activity revolves around forming a new government in which Michel 'Awn will participate. 'Awn is to be consulted, and his opinion on a number of issues, including the formation of the new government, is to be taken into consideration.

The same source added that other issues being discussed during Puente's consultations are political topics and constitutional reforms. Discussion on these issues involves the need to retrieve the constitutional reforms' draft law from the Chamber of Deputies so that the new government can discuss it in accordance with customary procedures and the applicable laws.

However, an Islamic spiritual source has described Puente's plan as imaginary.

Franjiyah Defines Bases for Nation's Survival

NC1506091190 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0600 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] Former President Sulayman Franjiyah has addressed a message to the Lebanese people on the anniversary of 13 June [marking the assassination of his son Tony and family in 1978]. President Franjiyah defined his stand on various Lebanese developments. He said that Lebanon cannot survive unless it is based on the following:

1. Lebanon is a sovereign, free, and independent country whose entity, land, people, and institutions are indivisible. Lebanon is a perpetual homeland for all its citizens and is founded on a formula of free and dignified coexistence. Lebanon is Arab in affiliation and identity.
2. Lebanon is a republic with a democratic parliamentary system based on respect for freedoms, justice, equality, and equal opportunities. It has a free economic system. It is a state of institutions, not of individuals, groups, or factions.
3. Lebanon is bound by distinguished relations with fraternal Syria, based on mutual interests and mutual respect for the independence and sovreignty of both countries.
4. Lebanon regards Israel as the historical enemy of Lebanon and the Arabs everywhere.
5. Lebanon repudiates the policy of Arab and international axes and adheres to the policy of Arab solidarity and openness to the world. It does not interfere in the internal affairs of any state.

President Franjiyah called on all Lebanese to achieve a comprehensive national agreement on those bases as a correct and necessary way to end the destructive wars and to rebuild a strong and just state.

President Franjiyah believes that the futile wars in Lebanon are part of a plan designed to make the Lebanese emigrate and to turn Lebanon into an alternative homeland for the Palestinians so that all of Palestine would become the native homeland for the Zionists with Jerusalem becoming the eternal capital of the racist state of Israel.

Syrian, Iranian Mediators Depart; No Settlement

NC1406175490 Paris AFP in English 1621 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] Beirut, June 14 (AFP)—Syrian and Iranian mediators left the Lebanese capital Thursday after again failing to secure a settlement in the conflict between the rival Shiite groups Amal and Hizballah, informed sources said.

Syria's military intelligence chief in Lebanon, General Ghazi Kan'an, and Iran's ambassador to Damascus, Mohammad Akhtari, were unable to reconcile the two sides' widely differing positions in nine days of talks here.

The sources said the main unresolvable issue remained the pro-Iranian Hizballah militia's return to areas in southern Lebanon, where they had been evicted by the Syrian-backed Amal group more than two years ago.

The two groups have battled since then for control of Lebanon's Shiite community. On-and-off clashes in South Lebanon, West Beirut and the central al-Biqa' Valley have left at least 800 people dead and 3,200 wounded.

Syria and Iran have tried on several occasions to end the conflict, notably with a cease-fire agreement in January 1989 that failed to hold.

The Syrian Army, which controls West Beirut, has for the past two weeks been conducting house-to-house searches for weapons to prevent a resumption of fighting there and in the southern suburbs between the Shiite rivals.

Islamic Resistance Calls for Unity in Battle

NC1006083090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 10 Jun 90

[Text] An Islamic Resistance group shelled an Israeli enemy position in the Shwayya area of Hasbayya district last night, completely destroying it.

The resistance issued a statement saying that this operation was on the anniversary of the Israeli incursion and the enemy's massacres against our people in occupied Palestine and Lebanon. The statement urged all the national and Muslim forces to stop the peripheral battles, unify the rifle, and direct it toward the Israeli enemy.

Commentary Views Baker Remarks On Shamir

JN1406145590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Speaking to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee recently, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker criticized Shamir's latest statements, and threatened to halt America's peace efforts unless Israel showed good faith. Baker held Shamir reponsible for the failure of his plan, which took Washington a long time to prepare. Shamir had asserted that Palestinians must give advance consent to his ideas if there were to be any negotations with them.

In actual fact, the American concern expressed by Baker is not to be laid only at the door of Shamir's negative approach to the peace efforts. Equally to blame is Shamir's effort to bring the Mideast situation to a head and to push the United states into adopting policies detrimental to the cause of Arab-American relations, arousing deep repugnance toward Washington and its policies. The most recent American veto of the UN Security Council resolution that sought to spare Israel the embarrassment of having to receive a UN investigation team was not reciprocated with temperance on Shamir's part. If anything, the effect has been to make the Israeli prime minister even more intemperate. Having cobbled together the most extreme and belligerent government in Israel's history, Shamir started issuing a string of threats and provocations, thus putting the United States in a truly embarrassing position.

Since Shamir is not interested in peace and is out to expand and build Greater Israel, it is natural that he should be whipping up tension and sounding the war drums with the object of presenting the international community with a fait accompli, blowing up all peace efforts, and dragging the United States into positions at odds with its declared peace intentions, as well as undermining its credibility in the region.

Shamir and his fellow Israeli hawks are using the Zionist lobby to pressure the U.S. Administration into ceasing its opposition to settlement activity in the occupied Arab land. The Americans know only too well that Shamir's present government is dedicated to the Greater Israel notion, and it was formed with the object of translating this project into physical reality on the ground. The Americans also realize that the attainment of this goal will only be feasible through the expulsion of Arabs from the occupied Arab territory by a string of massacres. It is not coincidental that advocates of mass expulsions of Palestinians should have been given top posts in Shamir's present government, including Sharon, Levi, and Eytan. The way the Israeli enemy leaders are bringing things to a head in the the Middle East is bound to create the right conditions for quelling and drowning the intifadah in a sea of blood and launching attacks against Arab countries. It is in this context that Shamir's latest threats to Syria must be seen.

While this truculent Zionist policy is, in the final analysis, aimed at the Arabs, who are dutybound to confront it with effective action rather than sterile rhetoric, the U.S. Administration's credibility also is at stake. Shamir is showing disdain not only for the peace efforts, including the United States'. He is indeed planning to drag the United States into adopting such policies that are at variance with the most fundamental principles of peace, the will of the international community, and American interests.

Will Baker's statement to the Senate be a virtual awakening? And will Baker's awakening prove contagious and thus stir the American Congress—a body that has been characteristically anti-Arab, the most recent expression of its hostile tendencies being its move on Jerusalem? Let us wait and see.

AL-BA'TH Commentary Take Stands on U.S., Israel

JN1506065790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 15 Jun 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Regarding the U.S. responsibility for the escalating Zionist danger on the Arab nation, AL-BA'TH notes in its commentary the U.S. support for Zionist arrogance, which Shamir's new government underscored through its rejection of any solution that does not allow it to continue the occupation of Arab territory and to settle in it.

AL-BA'TH says: The United States should bear the consequences. The newspaper adds: However, has Washington thought of these consequences?

AL-BA'TH answers this question, saying: The method with which the Arabs deal with the United States has made the United States not care about what would happen. Therefore, the Arab nation is called on to adopt two positions—the first on America, and the second on the war drums beaten by the extremist religious coalition in Israel.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Receives REUTER News Correspondent

LD1206195690 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Jun 90

[Text] Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, received today in the headquarters of the presidency Jose Katigbak, correspondent of the British REUTER News Agency, for an interview. During this interview, esteemed Najibullah replied to questions raised by this journalist about the military-political situation in the country, preparation for the convocation of the second congress of the PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan], and changes in the charter and action program of the PDPA.

Pakistani 'Extremist' Reported Killed Near Khowst

LD1206191990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1630 GMT 12 Jun 90

[Text] A Pakistani citizen, Ryhan Abed, who had been operating the extremist group that supports the intensification of fighting and bloodshed, was killed recently in the vicinity of Khowst major district during a clash with the Armed Forces.

The reports reaching the BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] say that this person illegally infiltrated the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan five months ago to take part in subversive and warmongering activities together with the extremists.

Mujahidin Launch Rockets on Kabul Area Airports

BK1406084890 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have destroyed two Kabul regime [word indistinct] and four security posts at the Bagram air base north of Kabul. MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] reports say the mujahidin also rocketed the Kabul airport. No immediate report of casualties is known. According to the agency, four tanks were damaged by the mujahidin in another operation in Paghman valley. A number of troops were killed or injured during the attack.

13 Jun Rocket Attack on Kabul Kills 1, Wounds 7

LD1406101390 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] Kabul, June 13, BAKHTAR—Fourteen U.S. made ground rockets were fired from the west and north-east directions of Kabul on the populated areas located in the 4th, 5th, 10th and 11th precincts of the capital today.

A civilian was killed and 7 others wounded. Remarkable material losses were inflicted on private properties too. Those injured during the attacks were rushed to the hospital.

19 Casualties in 14 Jun Attack

LD1406170690 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] The criminal extremists have martyred one of our compatriots and injured another 18 persons by firing today 10 U.S.-made rockets at the residential regions of Kabul city.

The military section of the BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] reported that the injured persons were quickly transferred to hospitals and put under treatment. These rockets are of the U.S.-made [as heard] SAKR and cluster type which were put at the disposal of the extremists by the United States—this so-called defender of human rights. These lethal gifts of the United States, which are contrary to all norms of international law on human rights, have caused the martyrdom and injury of our compatriots and imposed heavy losses on the public and welfare institutions.

These missiles which fired from west and north-east directions hit the third, fourth, fifth, seventh and 11th wards of the city. The mines scattered from the cluster type rockets were gathered and neutralized by the security forces.

Bangladesh

Finance Minister Presents 1990-91 Annual Budget

BK1506025590 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Jun 90

[All figures as heard]

[Excerpts] The national budget for 1990-91 fiscal year with a total outlay of about 14,000 crore taka has been announced. Estimated revenue receipts for the year is 7,562 crore 78 lakh taka and revenue expenditure 7,300 crore taka. This shows a surplus of 262 crore 78 lakh taka. The estimated receipts from various sources are: 5,852 crore taka from taxes under the control of the National Board of Revenue [NBR], 448 crore from taxes outside the NBR, and 1,262 crore 78 lakh taka from nontax sources. The estimated receipts from nontax sources for the next year is still high.

Presenting the budget at the Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] this afternoon, Finance Minister M.A. Munim said in order to realize the higher estimated receipts from nontax sources, the concerned institutions will have to take steps, including higher profit through more efficient operation, reduction of losses, correct pricing for products and services sold, and rational control over expenditure. On the whole, the estimated receipt for the next year is 11.6 percent higher than the receipt proposed in the current year's revised budget.

The size of the proposed Annual Development Program [ADP] is 5,668 crore taka of which 5,120 crore will be available as foreign aid. Some of the public sector enterprises will spend 325 crore taka on self-finance projects. After adjustment of shortfall on capital account in [words indistinct] food operation, the total financing gap in ADP is estimated at 596.73 crore taka. This resource gap will be mobilized through fresh fiscal measures.

The growth rate for 1990-91 is expected to be above five percent. Growth rate in different sectors are likely to be 3.5 percent in agriculture, 9.9 percent in industry, 12 percent in electricity and gas, and 6.5 percent in transport and communications.

The finance minister said the fourth Five-Year Plan will commence on the first of next month. He said if control over revenue expenditure cannot generate more resources for development outlay for the next plan period, implementation of development programs will slow down. Reduction of administrative and unproductive expenditure, improving administrative efficiency, elimination of wasteful expenditure and misuse of government resources, productivity gains and higher profits of the public sector are among the necessary preconditions for obtaining the objectives of the fourth Five-Year Plan.

The outlay for the fourth Five-Year Plan is estimated at 67,230 crore taka. This includes 40,730 crore taka in the public sector and 26,500 crore taka in the private sector. Domestic resources are expected to provide about 48 percent of the plan outlay, while the remaining 52 percent are expected from external resources. The plan envisages annual growth of five percent on an average. Measures have been taken in the light of success and problems experienced in the agricultural sector during the third Five-Year Plan. As a result, the food grain output is expected to exceed the initial estimates. Output for this year is currently estimated at more than 1 crore 90 lakh metric tons. Aman [variety of paddy] output is estimated at 95 lakh tons which is the highest output achieved so far.

Mr. M.A. Munim spoke of the need for improving the operational efficiency of the railway to reduce burden on the government's resources. For overall improvement of the government's resource position, it is necessary that the railway administration improves its efficiency, reduces loss and gradually become a profitable organization. The government is considering a railway recovery program to achieve its transformation. A number of Bangladesh's partners in development, including the Asian Development Bank, have already expressed their interest to assist the government in the recovery program. [passage omitted]

About the economic situation in the outgoing year, the finance minister said as the year was comparatively free from natural disasters, growth in agricultural sector and the economy has been significantly higher than in the previous years. The growth rate for the current year has been estimated around 5.8 percent, the highest achieved during the outgoing third Five-Year Plan. Mr. M.A. Munim said the government during the year took necessary steps to alleviate poverty and raise the level of welfare for vast majority of the common people. The government is examining the feasibility of introducing a social security system for various income groups.

The finance minister also spoke of steps taken to stabilizing the foreign exchange reserve position. The measures include incentives for increasing export of certain products and introduction of margin for opening letters of credit for imports.

Announcing the new fiscal measures, the finance minister said 596 crore 73 lakh taka will be realized during the year to finance the annual development program. The new revenue measures will be in the form of broadening of the domestic tax base, reducing anomalies in the tax rate, checking tax evasion and strengthening of the system of tax administration. [passage omitted]

Opposition Denounces Proposed Budget

BK1506093690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0918 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] Dhaka, June 15 (AFP)—Major opposition political groups in Bangladesh have denounced the government's proposed new budget as one that favors the wealthy, with one group calling for a strike on Sunday [17 June] to demand its withdrawal.

Sheikh Hasina Wajed, chief of the opposition Awami League (AL), on Friday [15 June] termed the proposed budget for fiscal 1990-91 as "anti-people," saying it fails to reflect the hopes of the people. The AL on Thursday [14 June] called for a nationwide strike Sunday to demand the spending plan's withdrawal.

Sheikh Hasina said the country's economy was in a mess because of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad's government's failure to "exploit the productive forces, lack of accountability in the economic sector and chaos in management."

Finance Minister Abdul Munim Thursday [14 June] announced a 129.6 billion Taka (3.70 billion U.S. Dollars) budget, which observers here said would raise the cost of living and make essentials more expensive. The budget would take effect July 1 if approved by parliament.

Sheikh Hasina alleged elite Bangladeshis were "grabbing the country's wealth and were transfering it abroad."

The other prominent opposition group, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of Begum Khaleda Zia—who was ousted by Mr. Ershad in a 1982 bloodless coup—burned copies of the budget immediately after it was announced. BNP Secretary General Salam Talukder held the government responsible for what he said was the "precarious economic condition of the country. "The budget will protect the interests of the rich, and make the rich richer and the poor poorer," he said.

According to an official survey released here Thursday, the cost of living in Bangladesh's capital of Dhaka rose 9.82 per cent in the nine months to the end of May.

Terming it a "budget to kill the poor," the left-leaning, five-party alliance of Nirmal Sen held protest rallies on Thursday, and charged the budget favored the rich.

Khalilur Rahman Majumder, chief secretary of the combined opposition parties (COP), described the new budget as "tax loaded" and demanded its withdrawal. COP, a conglomerate of several small like-minded parties, was the only major group that participated in the 1988 parliamentray voting and its chief, Abdur Rab, is currently the leader of the opposition in the parliament. Major political parties, including the AL and BNP, boycotted the elections, saying they would not be fair with Mr. Ershad in power.

The Bangladesh Lawyers Association, however, welcomed the budget and said its outlay for the mobilization of internal resources was "praise worthy."

Several economic commentators here criticized charges to be imposed on bank savings, saying they would "discourage savings." Mr. Munim, a retired army general, proposed increasing annual service charges for commercial banks to 100 taka (three dollars) from the current 10 taka (28 cents) and charges for cheque slips from 25 poisha (seven cents) to one taka (28 cents).

The new fiscal measures, if approved by the parliament, would make costlier the use of gas, electricity, water, telephone and electrical goods. In addition, the prices of sugar, edible oil, imported fruits, petroleum products and automobiles are also expected to go up substantially.

Informed sources said the tough measures were taken under pressure from the World Bank and other donor agencies, and following the financial debacle faced by Bangladesh early this year.

Source Says Presidential Polls Set for May 1991

BK1306133490 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 6 Jun 90 p 1

[Text] The government has decided to hold the presidential election in May next year, a highly placed official source said in Dhaka on Tuesday [5 June].

The source, told UNB [UNITED NEWS OF BANGLADESH] that the authorities have decided on the month of May and are working on a specific date for the polls.

"The month of May has been found to be the most suitable for the next Presidential election," he said.

President Hussain Muhammad Ershad, saying he will be a candidate, has already announced that the Presidential vote will take place any day between April 14 and Oct 14.

His current five-year term ends on Oct. 14 next year.

The mainstream opposition which boycotted the 1986 presidential balloting has so far rejected the polls offer.

JSD [Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal] leader A.S.M. Abdyr Rab is so far the only mentionable political leader who said he will run for the presidency.

The source said President Ershad is optimistic about the opposition's participation in the next year's election.

He said the next presidential vote is important for Bangladesh, especially because the people will also choose, for the first time, a Vice-President through direct election.

The Vice-President has been made an elective office under the ninth amendment of the constitution passed by the Jatiya Sangsad last year.

As President Ershad has virtually launched campaign for his candidacy, the political speculations are now focused on his possible choice of a running mate.

India

Singh Says Pakistani Troops Remain Emplaced

BK1506094590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] The prime minister said India is fully vigilant about the security of the border, but wants to improve its relations with all its neighbors. Mr. V.P. Singh said Pakistani forces are at the same place of the border and have not moved back an inch.

Talking to newsmen at Kukdeshwar in Mandsaur District in Madhya Pradesh this afternoon, he said the idea of a national government at the center can move forward only if there is consensus. It is not always necessary to set up a national government at the time of crisis. The prime minister said that differences of opinion is vital in a vibrant democracy.

Replying to a question about Kashmir, Mr. V.P. Singh said the government is talking to various leaders concerned. He said Dr. Farooq Abdullah stands for India.

On Punjab, the prime minister said the government wants to hold elections for the state assembly within six months.

About the Ram Jamanbhoomi-Babri Masjid [Hindu-Muslim disputed shrine] issue, Mr. V.P. Singh said talks are going on with various groups to find an amicable solution.

Referring to prices of essential commodities, he said the prices of cement and sugar have come down. The government wants to stagger export of tea to contain its price.

Mr. V.P. Singh said there is a difficult position about foreign exchange and if the country resorts to import oil, it will have to spend nearly 500 to 600 crore rupees more. He said the government is making efforts to tide over the difficult situation. Our correspondent, Ratan Salve, covering the prime minister's visit, reports from

Kukdeshwar that Mr. V.P. Singh will later today participate in a function in memory of the veteran freedom fighter, Late Munna Lal Patwa.

U.S. Trade Decision Called 'Victory' for India

BK1506043090 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] The United States has decided to postpone retaliatory sanctions against India on the Super-301 section of the U.S. trade law. The decision, which has been described as a clear success of Indian diplomacy, was conveyed to the Indian ambassador, Mr. Abid Hussain, by the U.S. trade representative, Miss Carla Hills, in Washington yesterday. In a press statement issued today, Miss Hills said that the retaliation is inappropriate at this time given the ongoing negotiations on services and investments in the Uruguay round of global trade talks.

The deadline for retaliation earlier announced by the United States was 16 June, with India being the only country to be redesignated as an allegedly unfair trade partner. The retaliation would have meant higher tariffs and more restrictions for Indian exports in the United States. India, however, categorically refused to negotiate under threat and reiterated its firm commitment to the multilateral process.

Doordarshan correspondent Anita Deepak spoke to Dr. Jai Tripathi, a journalist, about the implications of the U.S. decision:

[Begin recording] [Tripathi] Possibly, the Americans have realized it is not possible to pressurize India; more, that we will stick to whatever we have decided, and to that extent it is a victory for us. All pressures ultimately translate themselves into political pressure. That is why the talks must be held at a political level.

[Deepak] Do you think that it would strengthen India's position, its bargaining power, in the Uruguay Round of trade talks?

[Tripathi] Yes, I think so. As you know, the Uruguay Round is coming to end this December. Most of the negotiations have now been completed. We have now reached the final stage, and I think this is a very (?serious) stage where India as a leader of the developing countries can really show some action and all that, and I think this is going to be helpful. [end recording]

Afghan Foreign Minister Wakil Meets With Singh

LD1406095290 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] Kabul, June 13, BAKHTAR—'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] who is currently on an official visit to India met with V.P. Singh, prime minister of India in New Delhi today.

During the meeting Wakil conveyed best wishes of Najibullah, president of Afghanistan to him. The Afghan foreign minister detailed the Indian prime minister on the politico-military situation in the RA, realisation of national reconciliation policy, materialisation of the Geneva accords, convening of the Loya Jirgah (Grand Assembly), adoption of the Constitution and attempts made by the government of the RA for the peaceful political solution of the Afghan problem.

Wakil also stressed on the ever increasing expansion and growth of friendly relations between the RA and India based on the national interests of the two countries, ensurance of peace and security in the region.

The Indian prime minister while expressing gratitude from the message of President Najibullah hoped that the Afghan leader should visit India soon. The Indian prime minister expressed his complete and resolute support from the peaceful constructive stand of Afghanistan. Also, the Indian prime minister expressed his satisfaction for the successful termination of the 9th sessions of the Afghan-India joint commission on economic, technical and trade cooperations and considered it as a positive example for the further expansion of friendly relations between the two countries.

According to another report a dinner reception was given by I.K. Gujral, minister of foreign affairs of India in honour of 'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of the RA on June 12, 1990.

Meets With Officials

LD1406194990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Excerpt] 'Abdul Wakil, foreign affairs minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, yesterday at 1000 hours met separately with Habib Shor Singh, Indian minister of state for foreign affairs and Arif Muhammad Khan, minister of civil aviation, and discussed topics of mutual interest with them.

According to another report, the foreign affairs minister gave an interview to Indian television. Then he took part in a press conference which was attended by a large number of correspondents of Indian newspaper and press attaches of a number of embassies. [passage omitted]

Deputy Premier Expresses Confidence in Singh

BK0806155390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Jun 90

[Excerpts] The deputy prime minister and the agriculture minister, Mr. Devi Lal, has said that necessary steps would be taken to provide drinking water to all villages in the country. He was addressing a public meeting in Cuddapah in Andhra Pradesh today. [passage omitted]

During his speech, the deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal, expressed full confidence in the leadership of the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh.

'Bureaucratic Hitches' Halt Prisoner Exchange

BK0806132990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1307 GMT 8 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Amritsar, India, June 8 (AFP)—Scores of prisoners who spent between two and 14 years in Indian and Pakistani jails were thrust back into cages here Friday [8 June] moments after they were promised freedom under a repatriation pact. Most begged for water as a fierce sun pounded the detainees, who were denied freedom because of bureaucratic hitches near Wagha where India and Pakistan have a "gate" for periodic transfers of civilian prisoners, reporters said. Journalists were invited to northern frontier state of Punjab to witness the hand-over of 89 Pakistanis by India and 63 Indians by Pakistan, but the two sides failed to reach a tally at the moment of hope.

The prisoners had originally been arrested for illegal border crossing.

Indian guards refused to accept all but five Indians, as their names did not match a list previously negotiated at a higher level. Out of the total of 152 prisoners only 30, including two women, were finally accepted, 25 by Pakistan and five by India, officials said.

Of the 25 people accepted by Pakistan most were promptly rearrested and some handcuffed by rangers at the ceremony that turned sour, witnesses said.

The ceremonial Wagha border gate, known to many as "the freedom point", is scratched at places with names on both sides of those caught in the political storm that followed the bloody partition of the subcontinent in 1947. People on both sides are not supposed to look across the steel wire fences during a daily change of guards at the gate, 35 kilometers (21 miles) from the frontier city of Amritsar.

Reporters said Indian border guards lined up the Pakistani prisoners, including a doctor and a 14-year-old girl, as they pleaded for water after waiting hours under the blazing sun for freedom.

The repatriation ceremony has been postponed twice since May 15 and Friday many of the waiting prisoners, including a family of four Moslem pilgrims held by the Indians, broke down and cried when their names failed to be called, the witnesses said. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Outlines Employment Policy With Nepal

BK0706145690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 7 Jun 90

[Text] India has clarified that it is not its desire to seek symmetry with Nepal in the matter concerning employment. A spokesman of the external affairs ministry said in New Delhi this evening that there are about 15 lakh Indian nationals now employed in Nepal. What India wishes to try and remove through the process of negotiations is the discriminatory nature of certain regulations now in force against Indian nationals working in Nepal. He said India recognizes the fact that Nepal cannot open its doors for unlimited migration from other countries of a smaller population and territory [as heard].

The spokesman also said that India's approach in the high-level talks during the visit of Nepalese Prime Minister Mr. Bhattarai would be constructive, cooperative, and in the spirit of friendliness and good neighborliness.

'Terrorists' Kill Six More in Punjab

BK1406162190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists have gunned down six more persons, including three members of rival gangs, in separate incidents since last night.

According to an official spokesman, in two cases of intergang rivalry, terrorists shot dead a hardcore terrorist, Rajinder Singh, alias Rocky, and his accomplice in Mukhtsar area in Faridkot District and another terrorist in Bholath area in Kapurthala District last night.

Elsewhere in the state, terrorists gunned down two farmers in Batala area of Gurdaspur District and a CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] activist in Bannur area of Patiala District.

Kashmir 'Terror[illegible]ts' Kill Two, Throw Grenades

BK1406163190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] In Kashmir valley, terrorists killed two persons and injured four others in Srinagar, Kulgam, and (Kutwara) today. A branch manager of the Jammu and Kashmir bank, Mr. Avtar Kishan Safaya, was killed by terrorists at his residence in Srinagar. Terrorists threw hand grenades at patrol parties of the security forces at Jahangir Chowk and Badshah Chowk in Srinagar and also in (Kutwara). A driver of the security forces and three civilians were injured.

The curfew was relaxed for two hours in Khaniyar, Maharajgang, Renawadi and Naohatta area. The rest of Srinagar had a usual 13-hour curfew relaxation today.

Iran

Paper Rejects Proposed Visit by British MP's

NC1406114490 Paris AFP in English 1006 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 14 (AFP)—A leading newspaper and a member of the Iranian parliament Thursday [14 June] rejected a proposed visit by a delegation of British MPs, stressing that the mission would do nothing to help restore British-Iranian relations.

"Surely the British parliamentary delegation is not welcome in Iran and no invitation card has been sent by any

Iranian official to London," said the English-language Kayhan International in an editorial.

"Iranians are quite aware that there is no difference between British lawmakers and government officials, since they are hands of the same body which for years has suppressed, colonized and robbed the oppressed nations of the world. The journey of the British delegation to Iran will not mark a fundamental change in the U.K.'s attitude and policy toward the Islamic revolution and Muslims," the paper said.

The Iranian parliament on Tuesday [12 June] denied British press reports that an invitation had been sent to British MPs via the Church of England.

The Sunday Times newspaper reported last week end that the Foreign Office had approved the mission to Iran by four MPs to try to resolve the conflict over "The Satanic Verses," a novel by British author Salman Rushdie.

The book was denounced here as blasphemous to Islam and the late Iranian spiritual guide, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, called for Mr. Rushdie to be hunted down and killed. Iran broke off diplomatic relations with Britain in March 1989 after London refused to distance itself from the novel.

Iranian MP Ahmad 'Azizi, quoted Thursday by the Tehran Times newspaper, said a visit by British deputies would not resolve British-Iranian differences.

"I know, in view of the current tension between Iran and Britain, the British-sponsored visit could be regarded as a mild gesture of apology. But this does not seem enough," he said.

Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani told a press conference June 6 that relations could be normalized if British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher condemned "The Satanic Verses."

Government Chiefs Said To Head 'Terror Organ'

PM1406151190 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 11 Jun 90 p 1

[Khalid al-Matrafi report: "Integrated Iranian Terrorist Organ Under Supervision of Four Senior Officials"]

[Text] Mecca—Informed diplomatic sources have revealed to AL-MADINAH that three years ago the Iranian Government headed by Hashemi-Rafsanjani set up an integrated Iranian terrorist organ to supervise terrorist operations abroad.

The sources said that the officials in charge of the organ are Revolutionary Guards Commander Muhsen Rafiq Dust; Information Minister Ali Fallahiyan; Interior Minister Abdollah Nuri; and Muhammad Rafsanjani, brother of the Iranian president.

The sources pointed out that the Iranian terror organ has an independent budget and a special section inside the Council of Ministers.

The sources also said that, in addition to the organ metaphorically titled "Foreign Affairs," Ahmad Khomeyni is busy forming another organ called "Service to Islam," whose task is to promote Tehran's policy and liquidate its opponents.

Society for Defense of Freedom Members Arrested

Activities Banned

LD1406180290 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] On the order of Tehran's Islamic Revolution prosecutor, a number of members of the illegal group, the so-called Society for the Defense of Freedom [Jam'iyat-e Defa' az-Azadi] were arrested, and the activities of that group were banned.

Tehran's Islamic Revolution prosecutor announced: The arrest of this group followed their organized, clandestine meetings with foreign parties, which had gone on for a few years.

It should be pointed out that, since its inception, and particularly during the imposed war, the group was active as a fifth column, in the interests of the enemies of the Islamic revolution and the Iranian nation.

Paper Reports Arrest

NC1406190790 Paris AFP in English 1701 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 14 (AFP)—Several members of an Iranian opposition movement have been arrested on charges of having had contacts with "foreign circles," the newspaper KEYHAN reported Thursday. The paper did not provide the number of those detained nor their names but said they belonged to the Association for the Freedom and Sovereignty of the Iranian People.

They were accused of having had "secret contacts with foreign circles" and of having acted as a "fifth column in the interests of the enemies of the Islamic revolution" during the war with Iraq, according to the paper.

Iran and Iraq agreed to a cease-fire in the eight-year conflict in August 1988.

The Association was established in March 1986 by several liberal Iranian political figures, notably former prime minister Mehdi Bazargan and former foreign minister Ibrahim Yazdi.

Commentary Views Moves To Solve Afghan Problem

LD1406135890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1055 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Good day to dear listeners. The officials of the

Islamic Unity Party [IUP] and independent parties involved in the holy war based in Peshawar yesterday jointly met and conferred with Dr. Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Experts on Afghan political affairs consider that the meeting of these officials with the head of Iran's diplomatic affairs, who met for the purpose of holding a joint session in Tehran, in the current sensitive circumstances, is very important. This meeting and the joint session of Afghan mujahidin officials also mark the start of a political stimulus needed for moving toward solving the problem of Afghanistan. If this move continues, it will grant the mujahidin some positive achievements in the political arena, just like the positive role which they have gained in the military field.

In this respect, there is no doubt that it is absolutely necessary for all Afghan mujahidin groups to be united in their views and stands. [passage omitted] Even though the world powers were hoping to achieve tangible results in moving toward solving the problem of Afghanistan without paying attention to the demands of the Afghan mujahidin and the Muslim people of Afghanistan, it appears, after all, that the future of Afghanistan will be determined by the people of Afghanistan in spite of the factionalism and fragmentations which were imposed on them by the superpowers. There is no doubt that the realization of such a matter, taking into consideration current circumstances in world developments, will not be easy. Thus, the Islamic Republic of Iran, bearing in mind its responsibility towards the world's Muslims, considers itself duty bound to support them and expects that, through the close cooperation of mujahidin based in Iran and Pakistan, all Muslim people of Afghanistan may achieve their true rights.

According to political observers, bearing in mind the possibility of the defeat of the superpowers' positions on the Afghan question and the vacuum resulting from this latest development—points which found expression, notably, in the remarks made by U.S. officials—the joint meeting of the IUP and independent jihad-waging groups in Afghanistan based in Peshawar is very important in the move toward solving this problem. In reality, the latest political moves in Tehran of Afghan groups involved in jihad have intensified at a time when the efforts of the Kabul regime and their political allies, that is, elements that support the former king of Afghanistan to have a share in the future of that country bearing in mind the present circumstances of the two superpowers on the question of Afghanistan are in a state of confusion and ambiguity. The recent remarks made by responsible U.S. officials concerning Moscow-Washington disagreements over how to solve the Afghanistan problem, and the fact that currently, the basic difference between the two superpowers is the question of whether or not to save the government of Najibullah in Kabul, justify this assertion.

Bearing in mind recent developments in moves toward solving the problem of Afghanistan and the fact that world powers and their stooges have not been able to reach agreement over this question, it must be admitted that the Afghan mujahidin are able to benefit from a valuable historical opportunity. It will not of course be possible to benefit from this opportunity if the Afghan mujahidin will not agree to collaborate and unite in practice. Afghan mujahidin should hasten towards the realization of the unity that will unltimately lead to the establishment of the independent, Islamic and nonaligned government in their country.

Commentary Notes 'Tension' in Turkish-Iraqi Ties

NC0506144890 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 3 Jun 90

[Unattributed commentary: "Relations Between Turkey and Iraq"]

[Text] Speaking to a weekly magazine after tension had emerged in Iraqi-Turkish relations, particularly after several pieces of a gun en route to Iraq from Britain were seized in Turkey, the Iraqi ambassador in Ankara strongly criticized the Turkish Government's policy over waters from the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers and Turkey's move to send back the cargo that was destined for Iraq. The Iraqi ambassador described Turkey's decision to send back the pieces of a gun barrel that were discovered in Turkey as politically motivated and warned Turkey that Iraq may seek recourse at the International Court of Justice. This was an indirect threat against Turkey.

News agencies and several newspapers have recently reported that developments over the last few months indicate that relations between Turkey and Iraq have become strained and that a climate of mistrust has been created. Earlier this year, a Turkish newspaper accused the Iraqi regime of pursuing a hostile policy against Turkey and cooperating with organizations opposed to the Turkish Government. In an front-page article entitled Iraq Is Stabbing Turkey in the Back, this newspaper said: The Iraqi regime has recently adopted a hostile policy against Turkey. It has begun to support the illegal Kurdish Workers Party and exert strong pressure on the Turkic minority in Iraq.

Describing Iraq's policies during the Iran-Iraq war as misleading, the newspaper claimed that cease-fire in the Iran-Iraq war, Turkey's efforts to have Iraq pay its debts, and the Turkish Government's decision to obstruct the flow of the Euphrates River for a certain period of time prompted Iraq's hostile behavior.

Another reason for the latest developments between Ankara and Baghdad is Saddam Husayn's statement that his country's arms depots are full of chemical weapons and the anxiety this statement caused the Turkish Government.

Speaking after Saddam Husayn had made this statement, the Turkish defense minister said that Turkey was

concerned by Iraq's efforts to produce chemical weapons. He also noted that Turkey will never support the use of chemical weapons, which is inhuman.

Meanwhile, Turkish university students' condemnation of the chemical attacks on Halabjah in Iraq on the occasion of the anniversary of this tragic incident indicates the existence of a feeling of hatred among the Turkish people toward the Iraqi regime's use of chemical weapons.

In view of all this, we can say that a number of important disputes exist between Iraq and Turkey. The absence of an agreement on the use of the waters of the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers, Iraq's failure to pay its debts to Turkey, and, most important, the large quantities of chemical weapons in Iraqi depots, which constitute a potential threat to Iraq's neighbors, can be noted among them.

Indonesian Minister Continues Trade Talks

Delegation Exchanges Discussed

LD1306223790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Jun 90

[Text] During the second round of discussions between the Indonesian trade minister and our country's trade minister, the report on the work of trade and industries joint committees were reviewed and both sides placed emphasis on the expansion of trade ties between Iran and Indonesia.

According to the report of the Central News Unit, the exchange of trade delegations was stressed in that meeting. Issues pertaining to marketing methods, research in resources and reciprocal needs, cooperation and exchanges between the two countries' private sectors were also reviewed.

Signs Agreement, Departs

NC1406131590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] The talks between the Indonesian trade delegation and our country's commercial and economic officials ended with the signing of an economic memorandum of understanding. Under this memorandum of understanding, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Indonesia will cooperate in exchanging goods including steel, paper, tires, rubber, and oil and in the implementation of telecommunication, gas pipeline, and shipping projects.

Speaking to our correspondent before leaving Tehran this morning, Indonesian Trade Minister Mr. Arifin Siregar described the outcome of the trip as satisfactory and said: We came to the Islamic Republic of Iran to expand trade ties with Iran, and we achieved effective results after three days of talks with the Iranian officials. He said: We are sure that the two countries' relations will expand further in the future.

Minister of Commerce Mr. Vahaji also described the outcome of the Indonesian trade delegation's visit as positive.

Vahaji Details Agreement

NC1406132690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Interview with Trade Minister Vahaji by station correspondent—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Vahaji, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the two countries at the end of the Indonesian Trade Minister's visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran. What were the contents of this memorandum of understanding, and what is your general assessment of this visit?

[Vahaji] The memorandum of understanding was signed after previous understandings between the two countries. During our talks, Mr. Arefin Siregar and I discussed the main points concerning the continuation of the two countries' cooperation, and we included these points in the memorandum of understanding.

Fortunately there is much potential in the field of trade, and in view of the Five-Year Plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran which has begun, we should extensively furnish the materials and products needed the country needs. We foresee that we can furnish some of these needs from Indonesia. The most important materials and products are steel, paper, palm oil, tires, and rubber.

In industrial cooperation, we agreed to exchange delegations of experts who will find favorable grounds for expanding relations and for implementing projects that we and Indonesia need, and to study the final outcome of these studies in our next session.

In the field of oil exports, Indonesia will purchase oil from us as before. It has announced its readiness to purchase oil, and it has been faithful to its commitments until now.

They have expressed their readiness to cooperate in the field of services such as navigation and the construction of a gas pipeline. It was agreed that the Ministry of Post, Telegraph, and Telephone and Indonesia would cooperate in telecommunications and that telecommunications needs such as cables would be supplied in return for our helping Indonesia meet its needs in fiber optics technology.

Cabinet Holds Meeting, Discusses Bills 13 Jun

LD1406041890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 13 Jun 90

[Text] The cabinet held a meeting on Wednesday evening. In the meeting, following discussions and the review of the most important domestic and foreign events, the timetable for produced or imported items as well as the country's machinery needs for the current year were reviewed and approved. The bill on participation of ministers' deputies in legal assemblies and councils, the legality of which is conditional upon the presence of the ministers, was raised and approved by the cabinet.

*RESALAT Report on 25 Apr Majles Session

90AS0066A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 26 Apr 90 p 5

[Text] Legal and Majles Department:

Yesterday morning, the Majles convened a public session under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi. After recitation of some verses from the glorious Koran, the deputies from Esfahan, Karaj, and Bukan spoke as pre-agenda speakers. Then, Mr. Karrubi spoke, the contents of whose speech was brought to your attention in the previous issue. He praised the anniversary of the military defeat of the world-devouring United States in Tabas. The Majles entered into formal session after Mr. Karrubi's speech.

The speeches by the pre-agenda speakers and the Majles deliberations were as follows:

Karim Shahrzad, Representative of the People of Esfahan

The first pre-agenda speaker was Mr. Shahrzad, the deputy from Esfahan, who referred to the demonestration by 1 million people on Jerusalem Day and said:

Last Friday [20 April], during the days of divine feasting, our Muslim nation along with Muslims from everywhere in the world, while their hearts were filled with the flame of suffering and consumed by the separation from their great leader, and as they felt the mission to tread the path of the martyrs, responded to the call of the great leader of the revolution, His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, the rightful successor of the imam of the nation, and celebrated the universal Jerusalem Day while their hearts were filled with the flame of suffering and consumed by the separation from their great leader and their minds determined to tread in the path of martyrs.

He then warned the occupiers of Jerusalem and said: The occupiers of Jerusalem and their American supporters should know that if their savagery in the occupied lands continues, they should not expect to travel safely and freely in the Muslim countries, because zealous Muslims worldwide will not respond just by demonestrations in response to the cry of "O Muslims" by their oppressed Palestinian brothers.

He then referred to the freeing of Western hostages and said: These days, the freeing of an American hostage is the main news report of the mass media in the world, but the same arrogant mass media is quiet about the fate of 400 Shi'ites in the Israeli prisons and the disappearance of at least 3,500 persons at the hands of Phalangists in oppressed and war-torn Lebanon. What was the mission of Robert Polhill and others like him in Lebanon? Those in the United States who claim to champion the cause of human rights should respond to this question. Was it so that they may now pretend to sympathize with them [the Lebanese]? What else can they do except suicide attacks and holding hostages when the terrorist government of the United States and the Israeli usurpers have violated all the basic human rights of the Muslim nations of Palestine and Lebanon and they have no means to defend themselves?

In anther part of his speech, the speaker referred to the anniversary of the defeat of the American military attack in Tabas and said: A review of the activities of that criminal government during the past 11 years proves that plotting against the Islamic world and especially the overthrow of the Islamic Republic has been on the agenda of that chief-corrupter of this century for every single moment of time. Such a strategy is planned according to the prevailing conditions and employs various tactics. Sometimes it employs a number of seemingly contradictory scenarios, such as the recent threat by the retired American generals against our country at the same time when that regime is expressing a desire to establish relations with the Islamic Republic. Such confusion on the part of the agents of the White House in itself is the greatest achievement of our beloved president and rightfully testifies that the Islamic order has been wronged. It is a reflection of the universal Islamic movement on this day of Jerusalem. The generals of that great Satan should know that Iran is the land of the lord of the age [the hidden twelfth imam] (may God hasten his return) and if our nation had any fear from them, it would not have carried out the revolution and would not have fought heroically and withstood eight years of unjust war.

In another part of his speech, Mr. Shahrzad said that one of the ways to keep alive the line of our dear imam is to compile the insights of his holiness [Khomeyni] on jurisprudence and the aggresive strategy of that great man against the enemies of Islam. He said: his holiness' point of view about governmental jurisprudence and the contribution it has made to [theological] seminaries and the Islamic world is not unknown to anyone. It seems that more research should be done by the seminaries, universities, and the mass media in this regard because many of the problems we face today and the ones we will face in the future would be solved if we analyze such issues as governmental chastisements, absolute velayat [rule by religious jurisconsult], the powers of the Islamic government, insufficiency of the jurisprudence common in the seminaries, the importance of the factors of time and place in the practice of jurisprudence, the necessity to respond to the questions regarding the needs of time in an Islamic government, questions such as purification of self, ownership, non-essentiality of being a marja' [source of emulation] to fill the position of velayat, the necessity to compile the Islamic teachings on economics and art, the separation of pure Islam from Americanized Islam, the attack on the flimsy world order by issuing the death sentence for the author and those publishers who were aware of the contents of the book "Satanic Verses," and other questions. One of the intellectual principles of his holiness was attention to the protection of the Islamic government and suppression of threatening factors to the extent that in the face of the merchants of death, although his fatwa [religious decree] was different, he

referred the issue to the Expediency Discernment Council and declared the sanctions of that council to be binding.

He continued and said: In addition to the economic disorders, which are the result of revolution and war, the ceasing of the wheels of production, and the activities of economic terrorists and bailee investors, currently the hoarders and billionaires, who are newcomers, are putting redoubled pressure, particularly psychological pressure, on our devoted people, especially on people with fixed incomes. We should not face these problems simple-mindedly because if we miss the opportunities, the situation would impose itself on us permanently and these forces will infiltrate the structure of government, cause division between us and the people, and isolate the poor among Muslims until these forces become so powerful that no one can face them. This is a nonpartisan issue and all the national forces should feel responsibility in this regard. This argument is not one of partisanship or nonpartisanship, but is one of insuring the participation of the people in the defense and continuation of the revolution. Our 11 years of experience proves that, to counter the economic terrorists, there is no other alternative except violent confrontation. What else can we do with a person who abuses the terminology of jurisprudence and through formation of a so-called limited partnership company, takes billions of tomans from the people, transfers most of it out of the country, and then is caught with a forged passport while escaping the country and consequently makes thousands of people suspicious of the Islamic order and causes them to question the judgement of such an order? Is there any clearer example of a "corrupt on the earth"? Obviously if a few like him are hanged publicly, the people's morale will improve and they will trust us, and we would have the opportunity to explain to them our cultural and economic difficulties and the strained circumstances we face. Most unfortunately, such an opportunity is practically lost to us at the present time. It is obvious that control and punishment of corruptors not only is not contrary to planning and production, but is in line with strengthening of the centers of production and security of investments, and in this relation our brave nation will not have any new expectations. Our persevering people know that in the battle with self-aggrandizing [the West], a culture of work, endeavor, and dedication in the battlefield of production and avoidance of consumerism plays the major role. As we battle with the economic terrorists, the path of a determined battle with the cultural terrorists and proclaimers of Western culture will be secured.

In another part of his speech, the deputy from Esfahan referred to the collapse of Marxism and said: Although the collapse of Marxism is a potential victory for Islam, but to take advantage of the new state of affairs in the world requires improved internal order and vigilance on our part. Indications point to the fact that the political West and ideological East [the Soviet Union] are moving in the direction of creating a joint block against the Islamic world. The emigration of Jews, the slowdown in the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan, the seige of the allies of the Iranian Islamic revolution, becoming a mockery of the superpowers and the anti-Israeliness of Saddam, the hypocritical attitude of the sold-out regime in Hijaz [Saudi Arabia], the events of Panama and Nicaragua, the slaughter of Muslims in the Soviet Union and Kashmir, and the renewed drop in the price of oil, these are all symptoms of that sinister alliance and backstage agreements.

He added: Paying attention to our defense capabilities and advancing the speed in the organization of military and popular forces, centralization of parallel instituions, creation of a system to oversee the governmental institutions and finances—these are among the matters that need special attention and quick action.

At the end of his speech, Mr. Shahrzad reminded the authorities of the executive branch on a few subjects and said: According to the statement made by one of the security authorities on 15 April 1990 to the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY during an interview, one of the governmental institutions, whose name I will not mention in the interest of the revolution, which is supposed to be in the forefront of the battle with foreign cultural domination and objectionable acts, smuggled one million foreign neckties into the country at the end of last year for sale. I hope this institution will answer to the Hezbollahi [party of God] nation as soon as possible. I request from the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution on these days which coincide with the anniversary of the establishment of that sacred institution, to give an account of its work, especially with regard to the establishment of a practical relationship between the universities on one hand, and the seminaries, various organs of the society, industry, defense, and executive apparatus on the other hand. On the whole, a renewed evaluation and analysis of its efforts to involve the universities in helping the system with its difficulties is necessary. Reports from the universities indicate a lack of success on the part of the honorable representatives of the velayat-e faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult]. It is advisable for the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution to evaluate the situation once again, and if deemed appropriate and approved by the honorable leader [Khamene'i], merge that Council with the management of the universities so that it can serve in the deanship of the universities and hopefully improve its performance and prevent wasteful frictions which have existed in many universities until now. This does not mean that ecclesiastics may not serve as deans, but deans must be from among qualified and honorable ecclesiastics who can better carry out this weighty responsibility. I request from the minister of health and treatment to offer clear programs to prevent the irregular consumption of pharmaceuticals because unfortunately we spend a lot of foreign exchange to purchase pharmaceuticals and still we are faced with the people's dissatisfaction.

'Abbas 'Ali Zali, Representative of the People of Karaj

Mr. 'Abbas 'Ali Zali, the deputy from Karaj, was the second pre-agenda speaker and, at the outset of his talk, he offered his wishes for a happy feast of Fitr and expressed hopes that the blessings of self-discipline and purification derived from this divine feast will produce better opportunities for serving Islam and Muslims and offering thanks for the great gift of the Islamic revolution.

He then referred to the large participation of the people in the great demonstration on the universal Jerusalem Day and said: I offer my thanks to those informed, generous, and fighting people, who are ever-present in our national areana, for their large participation in the demonestration on the universal Jerusalem Day and their expression of repulsion for the criminal United States and the Israeli usurpers. I especially thank the people of Karaj who throughout the war were widely present on the battlefields and supported our dear Muslim fighters, and as the new circumstances demand, they will now use all their power to contribute to the reconstruction of the country. Their presense on Jerusalem Day was unparalleled in that city and incomparable with previous years.

The speaker also referred to the anniversary of the military defeat of world-devouring United States in Tabas and said: 25 April is the anniversary of the historical defeat of the United States in Tabas desert and the collapse of the U.S. plot for attack on the Islamic sacred land of Iran. The great Satan, the United States, after its initial defeat as a result of the victory of the Islamic revolution, faced an even harsher defeat when the brave Muslim students following the imam's line, occupied the nest of spies [the U.S. Embassy in Tehran] through their great and revolutionary move and prevented the implementation of a direct plot by the hired spies of the United States in our Islamic country. This unparalleled and daring move which was called by the great imam as a revolution greater than the first revolution, appeared like a lightening and burned down the foundation of the power of the United States and prepared the way for the unmasking of the real face of the powerful government of the criminal United States to the oppresed people of the world. The military attack by the United States to free the hostages was carried out by using giant airplanes and helicopters equipped with a variety of weapons and flown by pilots selected from among the most skilled criminals who had received the necessary training. The military attack against our Islamic country was made at 11 PM on the night of 25 April 1980, when they entered into our country after making such preparations as mobilization of naval forces, military bases, and embassies in the Middle East and Mediterranean region. But through the favor of God, during the first few moments, two airplanes exploded and nine passengers in other airplanes were burned to death and the remaining airplanes, individuals, and military helicopters were forced to flee. This event, praise be to God, more than ever before helped to shatter their arrogance and vanity and discredit them in the face of Islam and the Islamic revolution and increased the confidance of the faithful in the certainty of God's help and divine support for the glorious Islamic revolution. It is befitting that on this unforgetable day, the great and rising nation of Islamic Iran, continues to declare its repulsion for the American plots and the presence of Israeli usurpers and all the criminals from the East and the West in the region, and offers its thanks to the court of the great God for that miraculous event.

In another part of his speech, Mr. Zali referred to the solemn anniversary of the martyrdom of the esteemed philosopher and scholar, the blessed martyr of the revolution, Ayatollah Morteza Motahhari, and regarding Teachers Week said: At the beginning of this Teachers Week, I ask for the special favor of the authorities and the people of our country to pay more attention to the educational and training institutions and honor the educators of the country's manpower. Undoubtedly, the growth and advancement of the society and the future prosperity of our institutions are depedant upon the educators and the education they offer to the society. It is our great teachers who instill life and happiness into the yearning body of the present and future generations and open the doors of light and knowledge to them. Especially in this Teachers Week we need to remember such great teachers in our society as the great martyr Ayatollah Motahhari and the esteemed martyrs Raja'i and Bahonar.

He invited the attention of the authorities to the problem of workers and the deprived regions of the country and added: With respect to the deprived regions, praised be to God for the special attention paid to them in the Five-Year Plan and particularly in the 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] fiscal budget. It is necessary to prepare the way for the implementation of planned programs. We have meager possibilities in our rural areas for the implementation of programs. For instance, despite the fact that we have unlimited programs for water and soil, because our national executive power is limited, they do not produce jobs and therefore action is needed. Regarding the transfer of agricultural technologies which can produce a lot of jobs in the rural areas and revitalize the agriculture in the country, there is a need for widespread action and prevention of regulations and factionalism if they slow down the production. God willing, affairs will be streamlined so that we can save our farmers from distress and expand the social security for the rural population, farmers, and fishermen. Also, urgent action is necessary with respect to revenue-generation and the establishment of rural towns as well as the creation of appropriate executive procedures in the deprived regions inhabited by the oppressed in our country.

In conclusion, the deputy from Karaj referred to the problems of his electoral district and said: We may indeed utilize the example of Karaj as a mirror-picture of the state of agriculture in the country because Karaj is one of the cities that has the largest share of immigrants [from rural areas]. The population growth rate in Karaj

after the revolution has been 10 percent in average and obviously such a population has a lot of needs and all authorities must help in this regard.

Ahmad Taha, Representative of the people of Bukan

The last pre-agenda speaker was Mr. Taha, the deputy from Bukan, who referred to the blessings of the month of Ramadan and praised the first and second of May and said: 1 May coincides with the universal Labor Day and indeed the wheels of life move because of the power of workers. On the greatness of the position of workers, it is sufficient to know that the Prophet of Islam kissed the hands of a worker. On this day, I offer my best wishes to all workers of the world especially the dear Iranian workers. 2 May is the anniversary of the martyrdom of His Holiness Ayatollah Motahhari. Teachers have the same mission as prophets. The physical and spiritual health, the happiness, the progress, the growth, and the advancement of humanity are derived from the light of guidance, training, and education provided by teachers. The sacred word "teacher" eternally shines like a golden jewel on the crown of creation. We hold in esteem the exalted position of teachers and kiss their sacred hands. The ceremonies for the upgrading of Bukan to a township will be held on 2 May. I express my thanks to the esteemed Majles representatives and the respected members of the Cabinet, especially the interior minister, who open-mindedly helped with the upgrading of Bukan to a township. Bukan is located on one of the most important borders of the country. I am sincerly grateful and declare my own thanks and those of the people of Bukan from both the township and the rural areas.

He then added: The township of Bukan possesses special geographic, agricultural, and cultural features, and is located between the three provinces of East Azarbaijan, West Azarbaijan, and Kordestan. It is located between two rivers and by building dams on these rivers, the expansion of agriculture and animal husbandry, and because it has a city status, the way will be prepared for a bright future for Bukan and it can serve as the center for a new province. I recommend to the Interior Ministry to consider my suggestion in case of future creation of new provinces and hope that [Bukan] will become a center for worthy services to the country.

Mr. Taha referred to the punishment of those who cause trouble for the economy and said: Punishment and execution of hoarders, profiteers, and those who cause trouble for the economy, is not unrelated to the economic, cultural, social, ethical, and political aspects of an Islamic Order and none can grow and improve without the other. Therefore, it is necessary for the reform of the society and its protection from the consequences of other corruptions to find out the relationship between the different aspects and identify the causes and effects and investigate the causes so that the effects can be changed in the following manner: economic difficulties and undesirable corruptions caused by hoarding, embezzlement, profiteering, and shortages, should be considered as social diseases. [Other factors to consider are] production, method of distribution, measures of supply and demand, investigation into the causes and agents of shortages, profiteering and hoarding and the method of fighting them, improvement of the economic conditions, utilization of all available resources, and the appointment of qualified and honest authorities.

Report on the Public Session

The first item on the agenda of yestersay's public Majles session was the report on the first round of consultation by the committee on judicial and civil affairs regarding the bill on the authority and duties of the chief of the judicial branch. The generality of this bill was approved by the deputies.

Article One of this bill is as follows: All duties and authorities provided in different laws for the Supreme Judicial Council are transferred to the chief of the judicial branch.

The second item of the agenda was the report on the first round of consultations by the economic affairs and finance committee regarding the ammendment to Article 20 of the ammendment to the elerctricity law of Iran approved on 11 August 1989 by the Majles. Further consultation on this ammendment was postponed until the future.

The last item on the agenda was the election of two deputies from the Plan and Budget Committee and the Defense Committee, in accordance with Paragraph Z of Note 9 of the national budget law of 1369, for the purchase of major defense items from oversees; the election of two deputies, in accordance with Paragraph 2 of Note 29 of the national budget law of 1369, to attend and oversee the meetings of the Foreign Exchange Allocation Committee; the election of two deputies, in accordance with Paragraph 13 of Note 29 of the national budget law of 1369, to oversee the activities of the council on purchases; the election of two deputies, in accordance with Row 9, Paragraph B of Note 30 of the legislation on the first development program, for membership in the supreme council on investigation and design of a model for consuption; the election of two deputies, in accordance with Note 32 of the legislation on the first development program, for membership on the committee for the improvement of management and determination of the extent of properties, assets, and stocks owned by the governmental institutions; the election of two deputies, in accordance with Row 2 of Paragraph B of Note 21, to oversee the committe for the allocation of credit. The announcement of election results was postponed until the public session on Tuesday next week [1 May].

Also, the Majles announced the receipt of two proposed legislations:

1. Legislation to form an organization for the execution of Islamic justice.

2. Legislation for the discernment of an agricultural water-rate.

RESALAT Poses More Questions to Ghaffari

*Asks for Clarifications

90AS0089A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
10 May 90 p 2

[Text] Following the 20 questions put to Mr. Hadi Ghaffari concerning issues related to the "al-Hadi Foundation," he provided the newspaper with answers to those questions on 8 May 1990. RESALAT sent a letter to Mr. Hadi Ghaffari on the following day pointing out some issues, including the fact that the content of his letter is contrary to the "press law." The text of RESALAT's letter to Mr. Hadi Ghaffari follows.

Mr. Hadi Ghaffari

Greetings

Your response to the issues published in RESALAT dated 2 May 1990 was received yesterday.

In this response, unrelated issues are many, and unfortunately they explicitly include new insults and slander against the newspaper, its founders, and its writers, some of which are as follows:

"From the start of the foundation, explicit and implicit fighting and opposition in any possible form to the thoughts, views, decrees, and guidance of the Imam..."

"The continuation of fighting against some of the views of the Imam, and refutation of some of the actions of the Imam, the legal prime minister who was approved by the imam, the honorable head of the Islamic revolution court of the time, the Honorable Ayatollah Mohammadi-Gilani..."

"Defusing the climate of fighting capitalism, hoarding, profiteering, and the leech-like individuals affiliated with the global oppressors headed by the United States."

"Frequent impoliteness, insults, public deception, and Ash'ari-style slander by the newspaper towards the Imam's line."

"You wanted to question the honorable Council of Guardians and the person of Ayatollah Mohammadi-Gilani, who was appointed by the Imam and the grand leader."

"You have a series of subconscious complexes regarding me, due to my political and economic positions against leech-like capitalism, which you have revealed under this pretext."

Mr. Ghaffari, Article 23 of the press law obliges the newspaper to publish a response if it does not imply insults and slander against anyone, whereas you have not implicitly but explicitly engaged in insults and slander in the above-mentioned cases. The complete text of Article 23 is as follows:

Article 23: When in the press matters including insults, slander, untruth, or criticism against a person (actual or legal) are observed, that person has the right to send a response within one month in writing to the same publication, and the above-mentioned publication must publish such explanations and responses in one of the issues published after the response is received, on the same page and column using the same size type which was used to publish the original matter, free of charge, provided the response does not exceed twice the length of the original and does not imply insults or slander against anyone.

Hence, resolve the above problem so that rapid steps can be taken to publish it.

Also, in your response, in order to eliminate any ambiguity in the minds of readers, instead of accusations and slander, you might do well to respond to the remainder of our questions, including those on the purchase of the remaining 50 percent of the shares of the Starlight Company, the amount of the revenues of the foundation since 1360 [21 March 1981-20 March 1982], how they have been used, the permission given for 40-50 percent of the Starlight products, and so on.

Of course, it would be in good keeping to make the responses more clear.

For example, if the foreign currency account was not in your name and the person who had the right to withdrawal from it was Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Reza Esma'il-Damad, why did the supervisor of the embassy write, "In the account related to your honor..." Or, if you had not made arrangements for the Guard Corps to retain possession of the cattle ranch, why had you not made arrangements with the minister of agriculture to give the cattle ranch to the Guard Corps and not write that letter to the prime minister?

Public relations office of RESALAT

Today, to our amazement, we witnessed that JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI has published the response of Mr. Ghaffari. Hence, in the way of advice, we mention some points to our journalist colleagues at JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI.

1. The 20 questions posed to Mr. Hadi Ghaffari have not been published in your newspaper. Therefore, for what reason did you publish the response to them? Naturally, your readers need to know what Mr. Ghaffari was responding to.

2. In posing the 20 questions to Mr. Ghaffari, there was no phrase that implied criticism of JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI. Therefore, it is still unclear what your motivation was in publishing it. Also, were you aware of our written response to Mr. Ghaffari?

3. If our dear friends at that honorable publication had read our questions and his responses carefully, they would have noticed the many contradictions in his responses, and certainly our good people understand

such matters. We do not want to see you accused of defending the "al-Hadi Foundation" without any rational proof or reason.

Since Mr. Hadi Ghaffari has insisted on the publication of the same response and has not agreed to correct his response and answer our questions clearly, we too shall soon publish the necessary explanations concerning the contradictions in this response as well as other issues.

4. We hope you will publish our second response to Mr. Ghaffari and the 20 questions posed to him in your first issue in accordance with the press law.

*Poses 13 More Questions

90AS0089B Tehran RESALAT in Persian
12 May 90 pp 7, 6

[Text] Preface:

In response to the 20 questions posed by RESALAT about the al-Hadi Foundation, Mr. Hadi Ghaffari sent a response to RESALAT on 8 May 1990 through the public relations office of the Majles. Because the response, more than answering the posed questions, engaged in slander and insults, in a letter to him, we pointed out that according to Article 23 of the press law, he must omit the insults and slander in order for the response to be published. The text of our letter to Mr. Ghaffari was published on Thursday [10 May 1990] in RESALAT (page 2). Unfortunately, Mr. Ghaffari, instead of carrying out his legal duties, claims in a letter that RESALAT has not agreed to publish the response and requests that JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI publish his response. That newspaper published this response on 10 May 1990. Since Mr. Ghaffari has not agreed to prepare a response in accordance with the law, we are publishing the complete text of his response, which is written in his own handwriting and has been sent to us, and add a few questions to the previous ones. Of course, as usual, since we do not want to be sidetracked from the main issue, which is an examination of the ways to fight economic terrorism, we will leave dealing with the above-mentioned accusations and insults to the court of Islamic justice. The main issue under discussion is the roots of misuse of the rich, who suffer no pain, and the leech-like government, bazaar, and street people and the influential politicians to gain economic power. For this reason, our questions are not outside the main issue.

Explanations and New Questions by RESALAT

(A) The issue of the foreign currency account. In the response published in JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, you claim: "Concerning the Swiss bank account that has been mentioned, it totally belongs to the government and not to me. The right of signature or withdrawal belongs to the government of the Islamic Republic for the purchase of equipment...." (Of course, in the response sent to RESALAT, as it was observed, the right of signature and any withdrawal is mentioned as that of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic, which is not very different.)

Of course, a telex which you sent with the response states:

To Embassy-IRI, Bern

No 111

Honorable Ambassador of the IRI

Dated 7 May 1990

It is hereby requested that all documents and papers related to the account for purchasing equipment needed for the front which was acted on by me to be sent by special mail to the grand leader Ayatollah Khamene'i.

Gratefully

[Signed] Hadi Ghaffari

The head of the embassy, in a telex that we also published earlier, stated: "Honorable Hojjat ol-Eslam Hadi Ghaffari, following the instructions of your honor...and in the account related to your honor, 688,578.3 (francs) remain deposited in the bank."

(Question 1) Ultimately, does this account belong to the government or to you?

(Question 2) Did the right of signature and any kind of withdrawal belong to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic (the government of the Islamic Republic) or you, and was it used in accordance with "the instructions of your honor?"

(Question 3) In your opinion, you who are a legislator, on the basis of which article of the Constitution or the general accounting law is the government of the Islamic Republic required to get instructions from a representative of the Majles about an account that fully belongs to it?

(B) You ask why we do not ask the correct figure of Ayatollah Mohammadi-Gilani, and then add: "Did you intend to pose a question to me, or did you want thereby to question the honorable Council of Guardians and the person of Ayatollah Mohammadi-Gilani, who was appointed by the Imam and the grand leader? And have you not thereby questioned the selections and appointments of the Imam? If, as you claim, the payment of this money is illegal, the honorable Council of Guardians must be tried, not me!"

(Question 4) How does the total sum delivered relate to the honorable Ayatollah Mohammadi-Gilani? As the head of the court, he paid you $500,000 on 1 February 1983 from the government fines, upon the instructions of the head of the government. Look at the original document:

[Emblem of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

Islamic Republic of Iran

Islamic Revolution Prosecutor's Office of the Capital

In the name of the Almighty

Honorable President and Shar' Magistrate of the Islamic Revolution Courts of the Capital.

Respectfully, on 1 February 1983, brother Hojjat ol-Eslam Hadi Ghaffari came to the economic affairs division and said that, considering the needs of the fronts of the battle of truth against falsehood and in accordance with Your Honor's instructions, the amount of 4 million tomans, equivalent of 40 billion rials, should be paid to him. Hence, considering that this amount can be paid from the final fines fund, please inform us of your opinion and issue the necessary instructions in this regard.

Islamic Revolution Prosecutor's Office of the Capital

Economic Deputy

[Signed]

[notation added] In the name of God, the Compassionate and the Merciful

In accordance with the oral instructions of the honorable prime minister, $500,000 or its equivalent in rials for emergency needs are to be given [original text illegible] to the honorable Mr. Ghaffari [original text illegible] and the above-mentioned sum must be [original text illegible] for its dollar purchase.

Signed, Mohammadi-Gilani, 2 February 1983

But, since the balance in the account related to you on 27 April 1987 was $583,978, you must tell where the amount in excess of $500,000 came from and what the total amount was.

It is unfortunate that a newspaper must ask a Majles representative in accordance with its journalistic rights why he has interfered in the work of the executive power in violation of the Constitution. What is the story of the foreign currency account related to you? From where was the money procured? Why have sums from the treasury stayed in your account for five years? What was the interest...? And what is the connection with the head of the court at the time, who has placed foreign currency at your disposal in accordance with the instructions of the owner of the property (the government)? Why do you change the subject?

(C) The 100 million cattle ranch in Garmsar. You have claimed that you did not intend to purchase the cattle ranch, but rather, since you heard that it was going to be sold at a very low price, you informed the honorable minister of agriculture and participated in the transaction so that the property would not be plundered. You then also informed Mr. Rafiqdust that he should take the cattle ranch, which was done. And you stated explicitly, "We have achieved our goal, which was to prevent the waste of the funds of the treasury."

(Question 5) If you had informed the minister of agriculture prior to the transaction, why did you not ask him not to hold the transaction and to give the cattle ranch directly to the Guard Corps? This would have been possible in accordance with the general accounting law upon the permission of the prime minister. Why was this ultimately so difficult to accomplish?

(Question 6) Later, when the al-Hadi Foundation won the contract, if you were not insistent on taking the cattle ranch, as you claim you had made arrangements with the minister of agriculture and the minister of the Guard Corps, why did the minister of agriculture, even after the approval of the Cabinet to transfer the cattle ranch to the Guard Corps, feel obliged to write that letter and mention to the prime minister that you, as the winner of the contract, have legal rights, and that the cattle ranch was ready to be transferred to the al-Hadi Foundation?

(Question 7) If your objective was as you have claimed and both ministers were informed and did not truly have the intention of purchasing it, was there any further need for you to anticipate securing the funds of 100 million? Note your own words: "And even if such a purchase had been made, we had in mind that it be done with the help of individuals who supported the Islamic revolution, with the help of the legal banks of the country and some of the legal Islamic institutions and establishments." What is your explanation?

Of course, the fact that you wrote that the minister of the Guard Corps rescued the cattle ranch from being sold is correct, because if not for his insistence and the support of the government, the minister of agriculture could not have withstood your pressure, as you were legally the winner of the bid.

(C)[as published] Concerning the transfer of the shares of the Foundation of the Oppressed [Bonyad-e Mostaz'afan] in the Asia stocks to the al-Hadi Foundation, when we asked what problem they had presented for the Foundation of the Oppressed to have to transfer them to the al-Hadi Foundation, you wrote: "This is a question that, if an answer should be given, the Imam should have asked the president at the time, the speaker of the Majles, and the prime minister."

(Question 8) Where does it appear in this letter that Starlight was going to be given to the al-Hadi Foundation so that the imam would make inquiries about it?

(Question 9) Where in the letter is it stated that the heads of the three branches were informed of the transfer of Starlight to al-Hadi? What the heads of the three branches approved was the "transfer to organizations, such as the Emdad Committee [Imam's Relief Committee], the welfare and the union of Islamic societies of scattered and small units which are difficult for the Foundation of the Oppressed to keep up" and nothing else.

And the imam, in a rational manner, trusting the high-ranking officials, approved in principle this decision. Therefore, the transfer of the shares to al-Hadi has nothing to do with the president, the speaker of the Majles, or the chief justice.

(Question 10) How could a factory with 1,200 employees, which according to the national industries organization has been one of the pioneer factories in Iranian industries in the past 30 years, be considered a scattered or small unit, the upkeep of which is problematic? Is your interpreting this type of transfer to be in keeping with the imam's handwritten decree not ascribing clear untruth to the Imam?

(Question 11) Concerning 50 percent of the purchased shares of the national industries, you claim: "When it is purchased at a fair price, do you ask why we bought it so low...?" But we did not ask anything out of the ordinary.

We only asked: In your opinion, what is the basis for determining the value of half of the shares of the factory at 110 million tomans when the profits stated in 1362 [21 March 1983-20 March 1984] were 150 million tomans and the profits for 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989] were 178 million tomans? You who consider the amount of 110 million tomans for half the factory to be "fair," explain to the people how you evaluated it.

(D) Concerning the production of sheer stockings, you claimed that "not even one pair of sheer stockings is produced by Starlight." We just published an export brochure from Starlight and a receipt from the stocking distribution company and pointed out that the stocking distribution company is still affiliated with the Foundation for the Oppressed and Disabled [Bonyad-e Mostaz'afan va Janbazan]. But we mentioned the production code of your factory distinctly stated on that receipt. Again, we repeat: The stockings produced with the code 358060 and 357020 are sheer stockings, which were produced and distributed in 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988]. Of course, now we are informed that the thin threads found in the factory are not used in production. But now instead of using for instance 30 grams of thread in every pair of stockings, 25 grams are used, which results in the production of sheer stockings and a sort of hidden overpricing.

(Question 12) That export brochure was for the period 1987 and 1988 of the Christian calendar, which began in Dey 1365 [January 1987]. Note the first page of the book, the source for the brochure. Did you not have a role in the factory at that date? The above-mentioned brochure shows that Starlight at that time produced various kinds of thin, sheer stockings. On 5 January 1986, 30 percent of the shares of Starlight were transferred to you, and another 20 percent on 23 February 1987. Your claim in response, then, is not true. You might want to claim that decision making was the duty of the national industries organization, which still held 50 percent of the shares, even though this claim does not lighten your burden of responsibility. In order to avoid such a statement, we call the attention of our readers to part of Letter Number 01-145, dated 29/1/66 [18 April 1987], of a worker who was for eight years (1358-1366 [21 March 1979-20 March 1988]) a member of the board of directors, which shows the role of Mr. Ghaffari in the factory at the time of the publication of the above-mentioned brochure. Also, in this letter you will see the particulars of an economic establishment (Starlight) taking advantage of resources because of the political power of an individual supporting it. In other words, you shall see the proof for the editorial of RESALAT:

"In late 1364 [1986], in accordance with the opinion of the honorable prime minister and the head of the Foundation for the Oppressed, 50 percent of all the shares had been transferred to the al-Hadi Foundation. But, unfortunately, since these events, the industries organization has regarded Asia Stockings as a failed company. This resulted in the al-Hadi Foundation being able to take advantage of the situation and secretly control the company, due to the inattention of the organization. As a member of the board of directors, I am most grateful for the help of the al-Hadi Foundation in procuring foreign currency and raw materials and for its significant help, which has been given through the recommended channels of the foundation, which has enabled the company to enjoy a distinguished and extraordinary position under the present conditions. I am sorry that the national Iranian industries organization, which had been in charge of the management of this company over the past eight years, maintains its distance from involvement in and operation of the Asia stocking factory, which was one of the best factories of the textile group in regard to involvement in and management of the company."

[Complete text of letter]

Starlight Production Company
Nationalized

Date: 18 April 87
Number: 01-145
Enclosures:

In the name of the Almighty
Registered No 11595
All paid capital, [4?]00,000,000 rials

National Iranian Industries Organization, Textile and Clothing Industries Group

Brother Engineer Afkhami

Respectfully, I would like to inform you that I, Haj Rasulollah Suvizi, one of the technical workers of the Asia stocking knitting factory, who was appointed from 12 January 1980 as a member of the board of directors of the company by that honorable organization, during these eight years of membership in the board of directors....

Late in 1364 [1986], in accordance with the opinion of the honorable prime minister and the head of the Foundation for the Oppressed, 50 percent of all the shares had been transferred to the al-Hadi Foundation. But, unfortunately, since these events, the industries organization has regarded Asia Stockings as a failed company and is mostly after the management rights of the organization rather than managing the company. This has resulted in the al-Hadi Foundation being able to take advantage of the situation and secretly manage the company, due to the inattention of the organization. As a member of the

board of directors, I am most grateful for the help of the al-Hadi Foundation in procuring foreign currency and raw materials and for its significant help, which has been given through the recommended channels of the foundation, which has enabled the company to enjoy a distinguished and extraordinary position under the present conditions. I am sorry that the national Iranian industries organization, which had been in charge of the management of this company over the past eight years, maintains its distance from involvement in and operation of the Asia stocking factory, which was one of the best factories of the textile group. This important matter itself has caused the weakness of a revolutionary organization created after the revolution. I believe that paradise is given at a price rather than for excuses. What was mentioned is not an excuse.

I thank you very much for accepting my resignation.

May God grant all servants of Islam and Muslims good reward.

[signature]

Worker and member of the Board of Directors of the Asia stocking production company. Rasul Suvizi

Copies: Brother Engineer Mahru, general manager of the industries organization
The inspector's office of the organization
President of the board of directors and representative of the al-Hadi Foundation, brother Razma'i
Address: Kilometer Seven, special road to Karaj, Tehran 901250, 90125709, 946—telegraph Starlight Group.

(E) Concerning question Number 20 of RESALAT, in which we noted the approval of the Imam of the founders and some of its operators, you wrote that the touchstone is the present behavior of the individuals. Certainly this is true, but firstly some of the approvals, such as appointments to various responsibilities, were made up to the end of the Imam's life and still continue with the approval of the grand leader. Secondly, since in your speech you declared the operators of the newspaper old opponents of velayat-e faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult], the Imam, and the line of pure Mohammadan Islam, it was you who brought up the past.

(Question 13) Now do you admit that your claim, at least about the past of the gentlemen, was wrong? If you do, why have you once again engaged in this response, in such heavy accusations about their political life from the distant past to the present? Is this the meaning of believing in velayat-e faqih?

(F) Of course, you answered fully the question concerning the methods of distribution of the factory's products by presenting the letter from the Ministry of Commerce (one of 20 questions posed by RESALAT). But still, the remainder of the previous questions and the present questions remain unanswered: for example, the amount of revenues of al-Hadi from 1359 [21 March 1980-20 March 1981] (the year it was established) to the present, how they were used, the list of the fixed investments of al-Hadi, the reason for the profit of 40-50 percent for the Starlight production, the reason for the sale of 50 percent of the shares of the national industries organization, the text of the endowment letter, and so on.

In order to refresh your memory, let us remind you that one of the revenue items of al-Hadi is the rental fee for the land of the Starlight factory, for which the total delayed rental fee until 27 May 1986, was 10 million tomans and from then on, 180,000 tomans per month, which was granted 100 percent to the al-Hadi Foundation at a time when al-Hadi had not yet registered, and no application had even been submitted for it to be registered. It would not be out of line in your response not to leave out the 10-year revenues of the al-Hadi Foundation and similar instances.

*Ghaffari Responds

90AS0089C Tehran JOMHURI-YE ELSAMI in Persian 10 May 90 p 11

[Text] Distinguished newspaper of the imam's line, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI

Greetings

Following the publication of the thoroughly insulting, slanderous, and accusatory article by RESALAT after my speech against direct negotiations in the Majles, from throughout the country few individuals have posed questions. RESALAT also, contrary to the press law ratified by the Majles, did not publish my response. Even though it is not the duty of the honorable newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, as it is necessary to defend the oppressed, please publish my response to the issues published in RESALAT.

Most gratefully

Representative of the Majles

Hadi Ghaffari, 9 May 1990

May God have mercy on he who knows his limits and does not exceed them. [Arabic phrase]

Following my pre-agenda speech in the Majles in opposition to direct negotiations with the United States, the day after which the grand leader, Ayatollah Khamene'i, denied and negated any sort of relationship with the United States, and also my explanations concerning the Islamic establishment of al-Hadi, with the publication of many lies in RESALAT, that newspaper engaged in distortion, forging, publication of lies, and creating doubt in the minds of some people, considering that it was by no means the business of that newspaper to pose such questions. I did not wish to respond, considering that newspaper's intention, as evidenced by what it has written from the beginning of its establishment, has been an explicit and implicit fight and opposition in every possible form to the thoughts, views, decrees, and guidance of the Imam—greetings on him; opposition to the

government and the prime minister approved and supported by him; disruptions of the affairs of the Islamic government of Engineer Mir Hoseyn Musavi, to the extent that it was frequently scolded and reprimanded seriously by the Imam; and after he passed away, it engaged in clear distortion of his political-divine will and the testament of the Imam, which was protested by the people, the academics, the Islamic societies, the religious organizations, and more than 140 honorable representatives of the Majles industry, I myself know that this time, too, because of its continuing to fight some of the opinions of the Imam and its distortion of some of the actions of the Imam and the legal prime minister endorsed by the Imam and the honorable president of the Islamic revolution court at the time, his honor Ayatollah Mohammadi-Gilani, member of the honorable religious jurists of the Council of Guardians, and disrupting an establishment believing in and defending the imam's line, velayat-e faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult] and the grand leader, Ayatollah Khamene'i (see the amended text of the registered and usual charter of the establishment), and diffusing the climate of fighting against capitalism, hoarding, profiteering, and the leech-like dependents on global oppressors headed by the United States hurriedly by individuals whose unjust and anti-human positions against the oppressed and deprived stratum of workers is clear to everyone. However, on the insistence of Hezbollahi friends and loyalists, the combatants and believers in the line of guardianship and the leadership that any sort of silence might be interpreted as not having a logical response, I engaged in writing this brief response. At the same time, I will have to declare that due to the newspaper's lack of dignity, or perhaps because of the newspaper's not having a base among the people, I did not wish to write even this much of a response to the fabrications of that newspaper. My lack of response so far to the frequent discourtesy, insults, public deception, and Ash'ari-style slander of this newspaper against the Imam's line, the Islamic establishment of al-Hadi and myself bears witness to this claim. But, in any case, I wrote it, and I hope it will be published without omission, censorship, charge or methods of the Ash'aris and special journalistic ways being imposed on it. I leave judgment to God and the readers, so that with other explanations, it will no longer engage in public deception and force me to respond once again, because from now on, I shall respond to whatever you say or write in order for you not to interpret this silence and become bolder.

I add that the issue of slander and false accusations in Islamic judicial law is quite explicit. And I am certain that some of the gentlemen have carefully studied the chapter on justice in Islamic law and have even taught it. Why is it then that they have either forgotten whatever they have read or act this way knowingly?

Can the reputation and dignity of a cleric whose past is quite clear be dragged into the dirt under such a pretext, just because there is doubt in someone's mind, without being proven in a religious court or even discussed? Does this behavior not prove lack of belief in the rich Shi'ite religious law, and is this the way of the pious ancestors and the faithful people whom Islam has invited all of us to follow?

On the basis of the same reasoning, I ask the honorable religious scholars who are the guardians of the Shi'ite law and whose name may have been misused in that newspaper to put an end to this behavior, to force these gentlemen to adhere to the religious laws of Imam Sadeq and Imam Baqer and avoid accusation and slander, writing claims instead of turning to courts, judges, and interrogators, both bearing witness and issuing decrees and both making a ruling and implementing it, and in the end saying it is in the name of Islam.

I must point out certain issues as well.

(A) In regard to the Swiss bank account, this account belongs fully to the government and not to me, and the right of signature and any sort of withdrawal is that of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is allocated for the purchase of needed equipment for the fronts, such as large trucks, waterproof flashlights (used in the Valfajr-Eight operations and the Faw conquest) and the like, and all the purchasing documents are available.

(B) During the war, under the conditions of 1361 [21 March 1982-20 March 1983], when the crisis of the war was as it was, those we loved suffered at the front, like the mobilization forces, and endured much hardship in carrying out the operations. Now, bravo to this newspaper! This is our reward for our efforts to purchase resources for the front and the war. Yes, this is the answer to the pioneers of the front, the holy war, and martyrdom.

It is very strange to me. Who is there who does not know that whenever an individual does not obey your views, no matter if he is the most honorable and devoted person of this divine regime and has risen from the depths of the people's cries of "God is great," you allow yourselves to make him appear stained and try to discredit him and show him as most dishonorable. You even sometimes ignore and fail to even write one word about the opponents of the Imam, because they agree with your logic today and are part of your gang.

(C) In regard to the correct amount given, you had better contact Ayatollah Mohammadi-Gilani, the honorable member of the religious jurists of the Council of Guardians, who at that time presided over the court and who paid it. Ask him. With this article, did you mean to question me, or did you want to question the honorable Council of Guardians and the person of Ayatollah Mohammadi-Gilani, who was chosen by the imam and the grand leader? Have you not thereby questioned the selections and appointments of the imam? If, as you claim, the payment of such money is illegal, the honorable Council of Guardians must be tried and not me. There are other responses in such cases that are secrets of the regime, and if you hope for such information to be

given to foreigners by me within the framework of a response, I shall never answer.

(D) You have considered the purchase of a cattle ranch at a high price from the government of the Islamic Republic to be an offense. Apparently, if, like some of your money-bag colleagues, we had bought this complex for 250 million rials instead of 1 billion rials and had deducted it from the budget of the Islamic government, we would have done a good thing? After all, brothers, justice and piety are good things, and observing them will bring us salvation in this and the next world. If the al-Hadi establishment had bought these resources from the government for a high price, would it have done a good thing? Secondly, has such a transaction ever taken place for you to have made exposes, as they say, several times so far in this newspaper and in the speeches of its operators here and there? You who consider yourselves to be followers of traditional religious law, does this part of your past indicate your belief in the religious laws of Imam Sadeq? After all, you agree with religious transactions.

(2) Was the money for the purchase of this cattle ranch added to the budget of the treasury or to the budget of the government of Israel?

(3) Did this transaction ever take place?

The truth of the matter is none of these. I was informed through the 36-million-large information service (the people) that a large cattle ranch near Semnan might be plundered by some of the groups and a capital that is worth 1 billion rials might be transacted for 250 million rials.

While informing the Ministry of Agriculture and the honorable minister of the time, I told the management of the al-Hadi establishment to participate in the bidding for the company at a high price in any way possible, so that for now this property would not be plundered. Afterwards, the minister of the Guard Corps at the time, brother Haj Mohsen Rafiqdust, was informed through the brothers, and he too, upon the instructions of the president of the time, helped save it from being sold. It was transferred to the Guard Corps, and we achieved our goal of preventing the wasting of the treasury. Again we ask: Did the Islamic establishment of al-Hadi ever carry out this transaction for you or someone else to ask where we got the 1 billion rials? And at the present, it belongs to the Guard Corps.

(F) Moreover, my question to you is that in the list of your questions to me, the 20 questions concerning my statements in the Majles, what part of my speech was related to this part of the question that you posed? Apparently you have a series of complaints against me due to my political and economic positions and my fight against the leech-like capitalism that you have posed on such a pretext. The people will understand why precisely when my signature appears on the proposal to fight the economic terrorists and you come to the battleground to oppose me. How has the proposal to fight the economic terrorists shocked you, and most likely your friends, to have caused you to be so astonished and to cause such sensitivity towards one of the signers of that proposal? This is also one of the questions.

A question was asked about the capital of the Islamic establishment of al-Hadi at the time it was registered. The registered charter can be checked. It was also pointed out that this establishment has never had a 1-billion-rial transaction or had such a sum of money at its disposal.

Even if such purchases were made, it was intended to be with the help of individuals who support the Islamic revolution and the legal banks of the country and some of the Islamic and legal institutions and establishments.

(G) If you had not looked at the charter with ill intentions, you would have seen that nowhere in the charter has any individual or particular group owned even one rial of this establishment. It is managed under the supervision of the board of directors, and if (for any reason) it is dissolved in accordance with the registered charter, with the permission of the religious guardian or his representative in the Hajj and religious endowment and charity organization, it shall be transferred to a public establishment or, upon the determination of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, transferred to one of the ministries or Islamic revolutionary establishments or institutions.

(H) In the permit issued by the imam, the views of the decision makers were approved by him. In regard to the transfer of 30 percent of the Asia shares, the imam was informed about it. Had it not been to his satisfaction, he would have opposed the transfer of the remaining 20 percent, but he approved the transfer of the remaining 20 percent with the agreement of the prime minister.

(I) The question was asked, What problems would the government have were this property to be kept by the Foundation of the Oppressed. This is a question that, if it must be answered, the imam would have asked the president of the time (the grand leader), the speaker of the Majles (the president), and the prime minister of the time. The imam wrote that the decision of the gentlemen was to be implemented.

(J) Concerning the sale of the other 50 percent of the shares by the national industries organization and the procedure for pricing them:

1. It is interesting that, according to the claims of RESALAT, it is the purchaser who must state the reason for the sale and the pricing procedures and not the seller, which is the national industries organization.

2. When it is purchased at a fair price, you ask why we bought it cheap. And when we buy it at a higher price, we must answer where we got the funds. Again, the poet who wrote this poem was right:

May I be sacrificed for God; One roof and two types of weather; This side of the roof warm; That side of the roof cold.

Finally, we could not figure out if we want to buy something from the Islamic government if we should pay a little or a lot of money, because if we pay little, we have bought it cheap, and if we pay a lot, we must answer where we got the money...Bravo!

(K) Accusations made by the newspaper about the faithful and committed Shi'ite Muslim workers of Asia stocking production producing sheer stockings is certainly a religiously sinful act, unforgivable, and is considered slander and accusation. Even if we were to forego our rights, how will you compensate the noble workers for the violation of their rights? This factory is located at Kiometer Seven on Karaj road. It would be appropriate to go there and see that you cannot even find one pair of sheer stockings produced during the years this factory has been controlled by the Islamic establishment of al-Hadi. You might even doubt the purity of my birth, not to mention these other issues. A person who does not believe in what he is saying would not bring his combative and faithful parents into the arena. If you are unable to prove it, it is you who must doubt many things about yourself.

(L) In regard to Asia Stocking Store Number Nine belonging to the al-Hadi establishment, you wrote, "In Store Number Nine," the Asia stocking production company does not have even one store throughout Iran, let alone Store Number Nine.

This store belongs to and is under the supervision of the Foundation for the Oppressed and Disabled and not al-Hadi.

(M) Also, the receipt published does not belong to the al-Hadi establishment. If you had carefully looked at the same document that you published as a receipt, you would have seen the phrase: Stocking Distribution Company. The stocking distribution company is also under the supervision of the Foundation for the Oppressed and Disabled and not the al-Hadi establishment, and its general manager became a fugitive some time ago when he embezzled the property of Muslims.

Some time ago, the escape of this general manager was discussed in RESALAT. The matter was presented in a such a way and with such journalistic deception that any reader would think that it was the general manager of a company controlled by the Islamic establishment of al-Hadi who had escaped, whereas in fact, it was the general manager of one of the companies affiliated with the Foundation for the Oppressed and Disabled and not al-Hadi who had escaped. Just because the term stocking is used in the name of the company, "Stocking Distribution Company," it was thought that the company belonged to al-Hadi. When one does away with logic and justice in the manner of the Ash'aris and follows sophistry and deception, we will also be forced to resort to such tactics in order to survive, because the survival of the line of defending capital and capitalism is not possible except through such methods.

This is precisely like saying that since Asia stocking produces stockings, then every pair of sheer stockings comes from this cursed establishment. Oh people, do not allow it. Religion is threatened with destruction. Rise up, rise up!

(N) On the basis of what just system must we answer to part of a sentence from an export brochure printed prior to the transfer of Asia stockings to the Islamic al-Hadi establishment, one doctored on a forged receipt (of the Foundation for the Oppressed and Disabled and not the Islamic establishment of al-Hadi)? Must liars and slanderers be given lashes or the victim of accusations? Must the one who follows the Imam's line and the opponent of capitalism be punished, whether he is lying or telling the truth? It is not important whether he is lying or truthful. Belief in the Imam's line is sufficient cause for guilt!

In regard to the procedures for sales and distribution, a photocopy of the percentage of the distribution share which was announced to this company through a circular letter from the Ministry of Commerce is enclosed for publication, for your attention and that of the public.

Also, all the products were within the framework of fighting prohibited acts. Whenever the products had difficulties they stated their opinion.

(O) In regard to the praise that might have been made of some gentlemen in the newspaper, in accordance with the clear opinion of the Imam in his last will and testament, which is that "in any case, the touchstone is the present behavior of individuals," we must take into consideration the present behavior of the people and not the past.

(P) Certainly in the courts of Islamic justice and the judicial system of the Islamic government of Iran, following my complaint, you shall be obliged to apologize to me, the Islamic establishment of al-Hadi, the suffering Hezbollahi children, those on the front, and the parents and brothers of the martyrs.

I might forgo my rights and, after you apologize, forgive you, but what will you do with your baseless rumors with which you have turned the minds of a few? God willing, it will be clear on the day of judgment who is the most evil. [Arabic phrase]

And on the day when judgment day—when each individual is given a book listing all the good and bad deeds they have done [Arabic phrase]—occurs, certainly you will run after me to apologize, but on that day, apologies will be useless, because it will be too late. May God always safeguard us all from self interest and evil Satan.

I hope this amount of explanation will make the operators of the newspaper repent and will not force us to reveal issues that might not be in the interest of the regime of the Islamic Republic and which might benefit foreigners.

I have a great deal more to say, and if you continue I shall also continue. As God is my witness, we did not start it. I was only defending myself.

In conclusion, I sought refuge unto God, did a divination from the Koran, and these were the verses to which the Koran opened:

26.
O ye Children of Adam!
We have bestowed raiment
Upon you to cover
Your shame, as well as
To be an adornment to you.
But the raiment of righteousness,
That is the best.
Such are among the Signs
Of God, that they
May receive admonition!

27.
O ye Children of Adam!
Let not Satan seduce you,
In the same manner as
He got your parents out
Of the Garden, stripping them
Of their raiment, to expose
Their shame: for he
And his tribe watch you
From a position where ye
Cannot see them: We made
The Evil Ones friends
(Only) to those without Faith.

28.
When they do aught
That is shameful, they say:
"We found our fathers
Doing so"; and "God
Commanded us thus":
Say: "Nay, God never
Commands what is shameful:
Do ye say of God
What ye know not?"
[Arabic—from the Koran] Verses 26-28, al-A'raf Sura.

May peace be upon the person who follows the right path of Islam.

Hadi Ghaffari

[Text of letter]
Islamic Republic of Iran
Ministry of Commerce

Number 42945
dated 21 January 1989

In the name of the Almighty
Sale unit, brother Sa'adati, act according to these instructions for the distribution of the products of the company. My copy.
Asia Stocking Production Company
Kilometer Seven, Secondary Sasan Karaj Road
Greetings and God's mercy and blessings upon you.
Following instructions Number 88053, dated 28 January 1988, and considering the decisions made in the meeting of the prosecutor's office for fighting narcotics and prohibited acts in the presence of the representatives of the Ministry of Industries, the Ministry of Commerce, the center for the procurement and distribution of textiles, and the union of knitting and stocking weavers' guild on 8 January 1989 and the emphasis on the production of thick women's stockings by producers and also the planning and distribution of the same through the determined and approved channels, please make arrangements, at the latest (within three days) after the receipt of the instructions, to have samples of the women's stockings produced sent to the above-mentioned prosecutor's office and the Ministry of Industries for examination of thickness and quality. After obtaining approval, the above-mentioned stockings as well as other socks (men's and children's) produced as follows within the framework of the determined regulations, the production report and the monthly distribution statistics should be sent to this unit separately and regularly. Also, if the representatives and the recipients of the quota do not arrive on time, such must be reported, and if the products have not been taken by the 15th of the next month at the latest, they will be allotted to other applicants through coordination with this unit. Obviously, the renewal of the certificate and extension of any sort of service to that company depends on observance of these instructions and the proper operation of the company.

Central Union of Workers' Consumer Cooperatives (EMKAN)	10 %
Wholesale Union of the Employees Consumer Cooperative of the Country	9 %
ETEKA' Organization	4 %
Seheh Consumer Cooperative Company	2 %
Shahid Foundation Chain Stores	2 %
Sepah Cooperative Company	2 %
15 Khordad Foundation	2 %
Union of Domestic Consumption Cooperatives	3 %
Qods Chain Stores	2 %
City and Village Consumer Cooperative Organization	2 %
Oil Company Employees Consumer Cooperative	1 %
Jamshid Distribution Company	7 %
Stocking Distribution Company	8 %
Shenavar	5 %

Also, send the remaining 40 percent on the basis of the percentages announced and the needs of various provinces to the representatives identified through the central offices of commerce of the provinces and inform the central offices of commerce of the province of the results for their supervision. /P (Date of implementation: 4 February 1989)

Ahmad Samadian
in charge of [illegible] unit and [illegible] distribution

Pakistan

Iran, Turkey To Attend Cooperation Forum

BK1406033690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] An extraordinary meeting of the ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization is to be held in

Islamabad on Monday [18 June] for revitalizing the organization and upgrading it to ministerial level. The meeting is expected to make an important decision on the strengthening of the organization to give it a new thrust and direction to make it worthy of the objectives for which it was created in 1985. According to official sources, the Iranian delegation will be led by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, while Minister of State Mr. Isin Celibi, who is in charge of the economic portfolio including the State Planning Organization, will lead the Turkish side. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan will lead the Pakistan delegation.

Soviet Ambassador Meets Army Chief 11 Jun

BK1206020390 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0100 GMT 12 Jun 90

[Text] Soviet Ambassador to Pakistan Viktor P. Yakunin called on the army chief, General Mirza Aslam Beg, at General Headquarters in Rawalpindi yesterday and exchanged views with him on various matters of interest.

JUI Party Withdraws From Balochistan Government

BK1206162190 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 12 Jun 90

[Text] The Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam [JUI], Fazlur Rahman group, has quit the coalition Balochistan government headed by the chief minister, Nawab Mohammad Akbar Khan Bugti. Three JUI ministers tendered their resignations to the provincial governor in Quetta this evening. A fourth minister, now on an official visit abroad, will tender his resignation on return.

The JUI chief, Maulana Fazlur Rahman, told newsmen in Islamabad this evening that they decided to withdraw from the Balochistan government because of failure of the Balochistan National Alliance to implement the agreements. He said JUI, which has nine members in the provincial assembly, has for the time being decided to sit on opposition benches.

3,840 Kg of Contraband Charas Seized in Karachi

BK1406123290 Karachi DAWN in English 14 Jun 90 p 8

[Text] Karachi, June 13: Customs staff of the Preventive Collectorate, in record haul on Wednesday [13 June] seized 3840 kilograms of contraband charas, hidden under bags of fodder in a truck from RCD [expansion unknown] Highway near Muhajir Camp, west of Karachi. Two persons were also arrested.

On receipt of tip off that charas would be smuggled out of city for ultimate shipment abroad, through Makran Coast, vigil was kept over the movement of all vehicular traffic going towards the coastal area. A truck bearing registration No. ISA-4251 was signalled to stop. Driver did not pay any heed and instead sped away. The truck was, however, later overpowered after hot chase, a Customs press release said.

Thorough search resulted in the recovery of contraband charas which was hidden under bags of fodder. Driver Char Shambhay and cleaner Dilip were taken into custody. The truck laden with charas was also impounded. Further investigation is underway.

Sri Lanka

'Further Deterioration' of Situation in North, East

Defense Ministry Update

BK1406112890 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] The Ministry of Defense says there is a further deterioration in the security situation in the northern and eastern provinces, despite a pledge by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] to bring about an end to the violence and acts of aggression in the region. A communique issued by the ministry says in the face of escalating violence, the chairman of the Northeast Peace Committee, A.C.S. Hameed, proceeded to Jaffna on Tuesday [12 June] to find out the reasons for the unilateral violation of the cease-fire by the LTTE. Mr. Hameed had discussions with Dr. Anton Balasingham, Yogaratnam Yogi, Dominics, Subramaniam, and Mrs. Balasingham. At this meeting, the chairman of the peace committee was informed that the violence unleashed in Batticaloa and Amparai Districts was a result of the misunderstanding between the police and the LTTE.

The LTTE leaders also said that all acts of aggression would be stopped by 12:00 noon [0630 GMT] yesterday. However, immediately after Mr. Hameed left Jaffna for Colombo, the LTTE took over the Murunkan police station in Mannar District. They also mounted attacks on the Kalmunai, Kiran, and Kalawanchikudy Army camps in the eastern province. The Defense Ministry points out that in the face of these attacks, five soldiers died and 10 were injured. The armed services retaliated and repulsed these attacks, causing a large number of LTTE casualties. The latest reports say that the police stations in Mannar, Point Pedro, Kankesanthurai, and Vavuniya have been attacked and taken over. The Defense Ministry says that security forces are providing adequate reinforcement of personnel and equipment to reestablish the police stations that have been taken over by the LTTE. At the same time, every effort is being made to protect life and property and to maintain essential supplies and services.

The acts of aggression in the eastern province commenced with the abduction of two policemen on the night of 10 June by the LTTE from the Batticaloa District. The situation went out of control with the killing of 11 soldiers in Kalmunai. The soldiers were returning to camp after buying provisions. These cold-blooded murders were followed by the storming of nine police stations by a group of around 300 armed LTTE cadres. It is estimated that in these

unprovoked attacks on police stations, at least two policemen have died, a large number injured, and the others abducted and detained.

All-Party Committee Briefed

BK1406121690 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] The representative committee of the all-party conference met yesterday at the Presidential Secretariat. The meeting was chaired by the president. The representative committee discussed proposals for the establishment of a permanent human rights commission and appointed a subcommittee to examine these proposals and to submit recommendations.

The committee comprises Minister of Justice A.C.S. Hameed, Dr. Chanaka Amaratunge of the Liberal Party, Mr. Rauf Hakeem of the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress, Dr. Neelam Tiruchelvam of the TULF [Tamil United Liberation Front], and Mr. N.C. Kanta of TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization]. The attorney general and the director for human rights will assist the subcommittee.

Mr. A.C.S. Hameed briefed the representative committee about the present situation in the north and the east. The representative committee will meet again this evening at the presidential secretariat.

Minister Flies to Rebel Base

BK1506072690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0711 GMT 15 June 90

[Text] Colombo, June 15 (AFP)—A Sri Lankan Government negotiator flew to a rebel stronghold early Friday [15 June] for talks with Tamil rebels on ending the violence that was fast spreading across the island's Northeast, officials here said. Military officials said Friday that Justice Minister Shahul Hameed left Colombo for northern Jaffna where the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels have their main base, as attacks on army camps and police stations continued for the fifth consecutive day. Mr. Hameed would be meeting Tiger leaders "with a view to de-escalating the hostilities" mounted against the security forces, a Defence Ministry statement said late Thursday.

Heavily-armed rebels have been attacking the Muttur army camp in eastern Trincomalee and a detachment at the Talaimmanar pier to the northwest, officials said, adding that security forces have been vacating small posts in the Tamil-majority Northeast. Colombo has also reinforced Sinhalese areas in the region with hundreds of troops as a precaution against rebel attacks on villagers, the officials said.

Tamil rebels have in the past butchered hundreds of Sinhalese villagers and fears of another Sinhalese backlash against Tamils has made Colombo tighten security in vulnerable civilian areas. Thousands were killed when an ethnic conflict between the Sinhalese, in the majority in Sri Lanka as a whole, and the Tamils erupted in 1983 after Tamil separatist guerrillas killed Sinhalese soldiers in an ambush in the North. The current violence has left more than 300 people dead and hundreds of others wounded according to unconfirmed reports.

Thousands of soldiers have now been moved into strife-torn districts but troop movements are reported to have been hampered by land mines planted by the Tigers, the officials said.

Rebels in eastern Batticaloa continued to fire rockets and mortars on the Kiran and Kalawanchikudy army camps that have been fiercely resisting the attacks since the fighting began five days ago. Reports said that the Tigers had raided the central camp village in Malwatte in eastern Ampara but had been beaten off by security forces who rushed to the scene. The LTTE had earlier accused security forces of massacring more than 100 Tamil civilians in the same village, a charge the government has denied.

The latest violence broke out as Colombo was holding peace talks with the LTTE following the departure of Indian troops deployed in northeast Sri Lanka under a 1987 agreement aimed at ending a bloody Tamil separatist campaign.

Rebels Reportedly Kill, Detain Police

BK1506081490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0807 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] Colombo, June 15 (AFP)—Tamil rebels, fighting to dislodge Sri Lankan security forces in the country's Northeast, have massacred another group of policemen seized during raids on stations in the East, officials here said. The rebels, who have seized at least 25 police posts since beginning the offensive against government forces on Monday [11 June], are also holding more than 1,000 policemen hostage, officials said.

Military officials said Friday the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels killed 23 Sinhalese policemen out of 69 captured from the Kinniya police station in eastern Trincomalee on Wednesday [13 June]. A policemen who escaped from rebel custody informed the authorities about the killings, which occurred early Thursday [14 June], officials said.

A senior police official said the authorities were collecting data on the number of policemen missing, held hostage or killed throughout the Northeast after five days of fighting. "At present we believe more than 1000 were taken away by the LTTE," the official said.

The news of the latest killings came three days after a police officer had reported to authorities that he escaped from a massacre of about 100 policemen by Tigers in Tirukkovil in eastern Ampara, a charge the LTTE has denied.

Meanwhile, a member of the main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party, Lakshman Kiriella, charged Friday in Parliament that the policemen were sent to the "slaughter-house" because they were ordered to surrender to the Tigers.

Association Claims Israel Involved

BK1506095490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0939 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] Colombo, June 15 (AFP)—A Sri Lankan-Arab association on Friday accused Israeli military experts of fomenting rebel violence that has left many casualties in the country's northeast. The Sri Lanka Pan-Arab Friendship Association said in a statement in parliament Friday that Israeli experts were using the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to "do their dirty job of destabilising the country." The statement signed by the association's president, M.H. Mohamed, who is also the speaker of Sri Lanka's Parliament, was issued at a press conference in Parliament attended by many opposition members. Considering "the very reliable information we receive from responsible eye-witnesses, we are compelled to conclude that there is a Zionist involvement in the mass massacre" by the LTTE, it said.

Authorities earlier this week reported that 100 policemen were massacred by Tigers, a charge the LTTE has denied. Military officials said Friday that the same group massacred another 23 policemen.

Colombo in April closed the Israeli interests section that had been functioning in Sri Lanka at the height of a Tamil separatist rebellion and ordered all its personnel to leave the country. The decision, lauded by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Arab countries, was taken in line with an election pledge by President Ranasinghe Premadasa who took office a month after winning presidential elections in December 1988.

The association charged that the Israelis, angered by Colombo's decision, have used the LTTE to "force an invitation to re-enter Sri Lanka as they did last time by spreading lies about PLO assistance to Tamil groups."

Mr. Premadasa's predecessor, Junius Jayewardene, allowed the Israeli interests section to open after he sought and received Israel's help to train Sri Lankan security forces during the military offensive against the Tamil guerrillas.

The association, which charged that Israeli personnel were still in the country, urged Colombo "to send away all Israeli experts with immediate effect" in view of the prevailing situation in the northeast.

Paper on 30 May Government Meeting With LTTE

BK1306074990 Colombo VIRAKESARI in Tamil 30 May 90 pp 1,5

[From the Jaffna correspondent]

[Excerpt] At the meeting between A.C.S. Hameed, the minister for justice, who is also the head of the peace committee, and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] in Palalay on 28 May, it was decided that regular weekly meetings between the government and LTTE representatives would be held to review the security situation in the north and east.

Government military officials at the meeting questioned the LTTE's formation of security belts around military camps in the northeast and their restrictions on the movement of the army and police in the area.

In response, Dr. Anton Balasingham [LTTE's political adviser] said the LTTE had taken these security measures, and that they reflect the Tamil people's fear of the government's military activities in the northeast. He also pointed to the increase in soldiers and activity of helicopters, bombers, and reconnaissance planes.

The Justice Minister Hameed said these doubts arose as a result of the lack of mutual trust.

At the end of the meeting, there was an agreement to meet every week to review the security situation. Such weekly meetings would also be held in various districts. Accordingly, Minister Hameed would go to Jaffna on Monday [4 June], and from there to Trincomalee with LTTE representatives. A meeting would be held there the same day. [passage omitted]